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OF THE
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMPILED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION AND THE
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Volume 11



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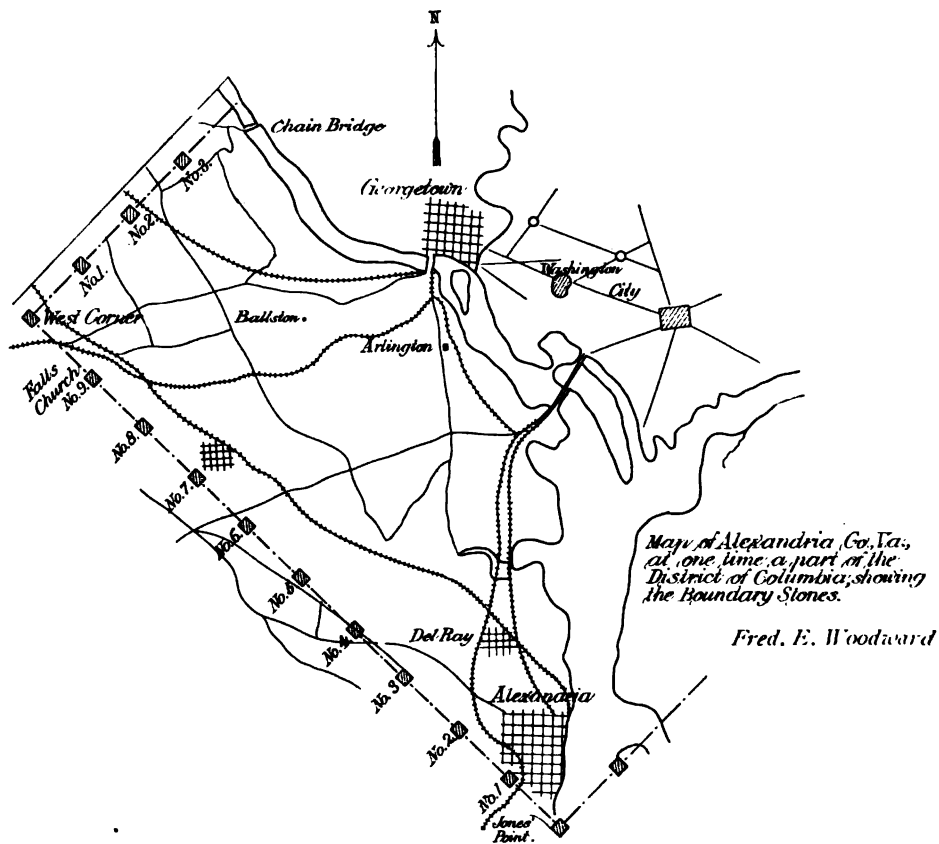
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DATA OF
COLUMBIA

ALEXANDRIA



WITH A CAMERA OVER THE OLD DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES.

By FRED E. WOODWARD.

(Read before the Society, January 14, 1907.)

Occasionally one sees in the daily or weekly papers reference to the question of jurisdiction over that little tract of land, comprising thirty-two square miles and known as Alexandria County, Va., which for fifty-six years was an integral part of the District of Columbia—the original “ten miles square”—and which, legally or not was retroceded to the State of Virginia July 9, 1846.

That unmistakable call of the wild, which we sometimes feel coursing through our veins and which urges us out of man-made structures into the open air, under the arch of the summer sky, where we may fill our nostrils with the aroma of the pine and the sassafras and drink in the wonderful charm of woods and fields, and which scorns the traveled way and up-to-date methods of locomotion, and encourages old-time tramping across lots, sent the writer over the old boundary line which once separated the District of Columbia and Virginia, and is at present the dividing line between the counties of Alexandria and Fairfax, in an endeavor to locate and picture the present condition of the stones which were placed at intervals of one mile around the entire District.

Taking a small camera for picture-making and a canvas bag swung across the shoulders containing maps, compass, and other necessary equipment, and accompanied by either an agreeable friend or a chance ac-

TO THE ANNALS

quaintance, the writer has traversed many a weary mile under the warm rays of a midsummer sun or the chilly winds of early autumn, and has garnered with the pictures of the old boundary stones a few items which may not be wholly devoid of interest to others.

When the District of Columbia was established by an Act of Congress dated July 16, 1790, the initial or southern stone was set up on Jones' Point, on Hunting Creek, below Alexandria, Va., and from this point as a starting place, a territory ten miles square, containing 100 square miles, was laid out with the corners of the square at the four cardinal points.

The first line was run due northwest ten miles to a point near Falls Church, Va., thence running at right angles ten miles due northeast, crossing the Potomac River and into Maryland to a point near Woodside, Md., thence at right angles ten miles to a point near Chesapeake Beach Junction, thence at right angles crossing for the second time the Potomac River, ten miles to Jones' Point Light, Va., the place of beginning.

With elaborate ceremony and Masonic display, the corner stone was placed in position April 15, 1791, and the onward march of the "Territory of Columbia," as it was then called, was begun. Maj. Andrew Elicott, the surveyor under whose direction much of the work was done, completed the setting of the Virginia stones in 1791, and each one bears this date.

Carving a path forty feet wide (twenty feet on each side of the line) he placed a suitably inscribed milestone, one foot square, at the end of each mile, thus perpetuating the line of survey.

Twenty-six of these stones were placed on Maryland territory, and still mark the existing boundary between



SUPPOSED LOCATION OF THE SOUTH CORNER-STONE.



IN YARD OF MR. O. BAGGETT.

Note the small size of letters and the large size of date figures.

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that State and the District of Columbia. These Maryland stones formed the subject of a paper which was read before this society by the writer on May 14, 1906.*

The remaining fourteen stones on the Virginia side of the Potomac River it is our purpose to describe at this time.

The initial stone at Jones' Point is not at present visible, nor has it been seen for more than half a century. When the government light-house was erected on Jones' Point in 1855, the stone was covered by part of the inclosure. According to information furnished by Mr. F. E. Wilkins, the lightkeeper, the stone is believed to be under a small embankment held in place by a sea wall and not far from the southerly entrance door of the light-house. This embankment is twenty feet in width, eighty feet in length, and about five feet high. In our picture, the little grandson of Mr. Wilkins is standing over the buried stone.

An inquiry made of the light-house board brought the answer that the board is unable to locate the stone definitely, and says "an unverified statement places the stone under the front steps of the keeper's dwelling." Mr. Wilkins showed the writer a plan made by the Southern Railway Company from whom he leased at one time an adjoining lot of ground, which shows very plainly the old Line of the District crossing in a diagonal line the southwest corner of the light house, then crossing the embankment near the head of the steps leading to the beach.

Jones' Point was selected as the southernmost point of the new territory by Gen. Washington, after due consideration and undoubtedly from a desire to include within the limits of the District the city of Alexandria, established thirty-five years before, and already

* See "Records of the Col. Hist. Soc.," Vol. 10, p. 63.

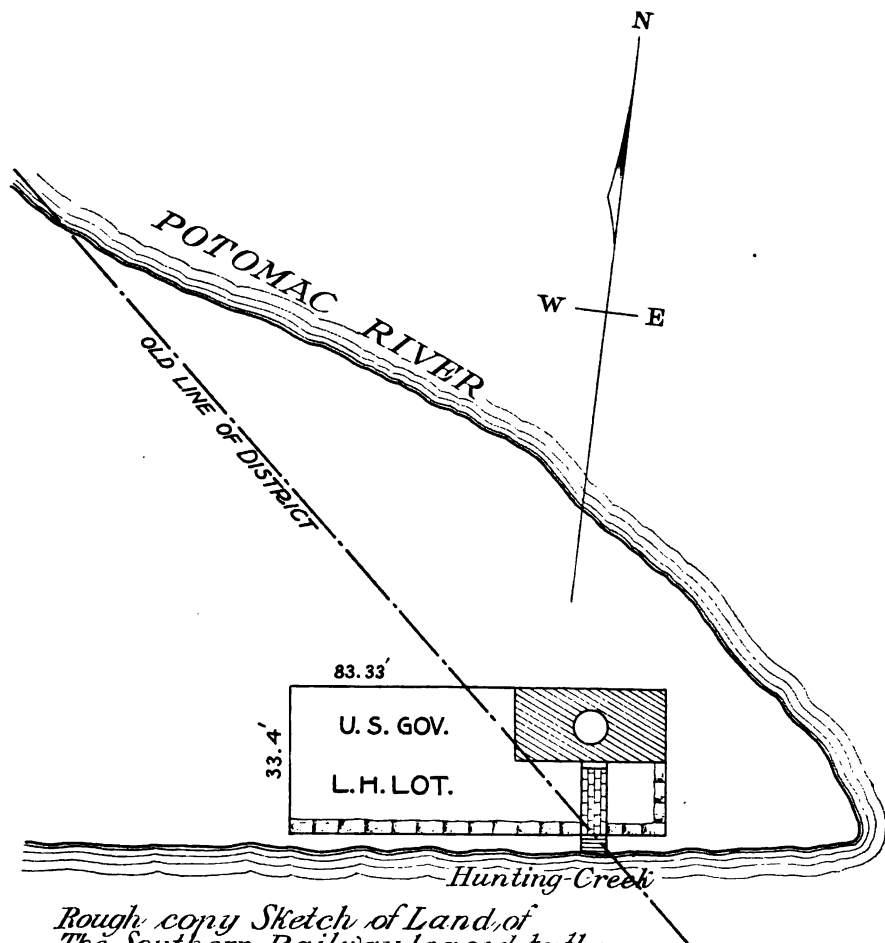
a place of much importance. The exact point for the initial stone was found by using the Alexandria courthouse as a starting point, and running a line due southwest one-half mile, thence following a southeast course until the margin of Hunting Creek was reached.

In the original Act of Congress no provision was made for any territory in the State of Virginia nor for that part of Maryland lying south of the Eastern Branch, but on March 3, 1791, an additional Act of Congress made the necessary changes, and the lines of the District of Columbia became a legal fact.

Strange stories reach our ears, as we journey from place to place, about these old stones and their virtues. No doubt the laws of the States or of the District relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors are at the bottom of many of the stories concerning the frequent removal of the stones and their replacement in a new and more favorable location, as pool rooms and saloons are always to be found at the "District line."

More serious than this was the charge made to the writer, after the publication last summer, of his communication on the Maryland stones, in which he asserted that the north corner-stone, at Woodside, Md., was 116 feet out of the proper meridian, being too far to the west—that he had proved a marriage which took place sixteen years ago illegal, said marriage having taken place at the stone itself in order that the minister, who was qualified to perform the ceremony in the State of Maryland only, might be surely on Maryland soil.

It is my purpose now to describe in regular order the location of the various milestones and to exhibit such pictures as will best serve to show the present condition of each stone, and for this purpose a rough sketch of the location of the stones, with some refer-



*Rough copy Sketch of Land of
The Southern Railway, leased to the
Keeper of JONES' POINT LIGHTHOUSE, and
showing the probable location of the
Initial Stone of the District of Columbia.
by Fred E. Woodward.*

TO WHOM
ATTACHED

ence to the surrounding country, is shown, upon which the various stones are indicated by proper numerals.

I invite you in imagination to come with me into the highways and byways of the Old Dominion on a balmy day in June, when the fragrant odor of pine and balsam are in the air—a carpet of newest green under foot, a comfortable feeling of satisfaction with all the world, a boon companion who is a good traveler and never grumbles, and a contented mind, and with these we will look at the abiding places of the first stones ever set to mark the outlines of the District of Columbia.

SOUTHWEST No. 1.

The second stone and the end of the first mile may be found in an open field adjoining the premises of Mr. Oscar Baggett, 1200 Wilke Street, Alexandria, Va. It is in good condition, and as our illustration shows is not seriously scarred or worn. Originally set in a garden about 100 yards south of the house, 1200 Wilke Street, it was about three years ago dug up and carried to the edge of the field by the side of a high picket fence about 225 feet from its proper location—at which place we raised it upright long enough to photograph its several sides.

From this picture one gets an accurate idea of the original shape and size of the milestones, the lower half being left rough as it was quarried, while the remaining part of the stone was accurately sawed one foot square, the top being beveled for four inches. The inscription on the northeast side is: "Jurisdiction of the United States—1 mile." On the southwest side, "Virginia." On the northwest side, in very large figures, "1791," the date when the stone was placed in position, and on the southeast side, "Var. 0° 30 W," this being the variation of the magnetic needle at this place in 1791.

You will note the very small size of the letters on the District side of the stone (only about one inch in length), as compared with the same words on many of the succeeding stones, and also the very large date figures. This stone is on the extreme southwestern limits of the city of Alexandria, and very close to the shops of the Southern Railway. With a little effort one can imagine himself in Alexandria, or Belle Haven, as it was called, and hear the solitary watchman blowing his horn at the street corners at he patrolled the streets at night, as a signal that all was well.

One quarter of a mile northwestward we pass the new and attractive station of the Southern Railway, and climb the long ascent of Shuter's Hill in search of "Southwest No. 2," which, however, has not been found. It might be well to say, in passing, that with this exception, every one of the forty original milestones has been located, and the whole or fragments of them have been photographed.

This stone was evidently placed on the east side of, and very close to, the Alexandria and Leesburg turnpike, on the eastern slope of Shuter's Hill, in a subdivision now known as Spring Park, and within a stone's throw of Fort Ellsworth, which was built by the Federal forces in May, 1861. At this point we found a large force of workmen and teams engaged in carting away loam and gravel to be used on new roads. To our many inquiries as to the whereabouts of the old stone, we received the same answer—no one remembered the existence of such a boundary. The foreman of the roadmen said that a very peculiar condition was known to exist there, a movement of surface earth which he called "creeping down hill," and which, if true, may have had something to do with the dis-



ON LAND OF P. CUNNINGHAM.
Theological Seminary in the distance.



ON LAND OF CORTLAND SMITH.
Stump, in original position.

NO. 1000
ALBANY, N. Y.



ON LAND OF FRANCIS SMITH.
Stump and a few inches of finished top.



IN THE PAYNE WOODS, NEAR BAILEY'S CROSS-ROADS.
In poor condition.

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placement of this ancient landmark. The county surveyor of Alexandria County, Mr. George E. Garrett, states that he has no recollection of ever seeing the stone, and he is sure that it was not to be found when he ran out the county line a few years ago. Mr. Marcus Baker in his admirable paper on the boundary stones, published in 1897,* says that it was then thought to be lost.

SOUTHWEST No. 3.

The next stone, "S. W. No 3," stands on the south-westerly side of the Leesburg and Alexandria turn-pike in an open field or pasture belonging to Patrick Cunningham, about three-fourths of a mile from its junction with the Braddock, or old Leesburg road.

We were much indebted to Mr. Norman E. Harris, a carpenter employed by Mr. Cortland Smith, for his friendly services by means of which we not only located this and other stones, but pierced the osage orange thicket and escaped from the cruel barbed-wire fence, which, with the tremendous thicket, made access to the stone almost impossible. It is in poor condition, very much battered and bruised, the inscriptions being only partially legible. This was the first stone in Virginia to be placed at other than equal miles, but as the end of the mile fell in a ravine, the surveyors measured back eighteen rods or poles, and, accordingly, we find the stone marked "2 Miles 302 Poles."

One half mile westward may be seen the well-known Fairfax Theological Seminary, and still farther westward the site of Fort Worth, one of the cordon of forts erected by the Federal government for the defense of the city of Washington.

* "Records of the Col. Hist. Soc.," Vol. 1, p. 215.

SOUTHWEST No. 4.

All that remains of "S. W. No. 4" is a plow-scratched stump, the entire top having been broken off and lost. Its position seems to indicate the fact that it has never been disturbed, but remains in the identical spot where Major Ellicott placed it 117 years ago. It is broken off a few inches below the surface of the ground, and so hidden from view that a few clods of earth thrown up by the plow cover it completely. Twice or thrice we passed it by without seeing it. Calling into our service the farmer, who said, "By gum, I've run the plow into that stone times enough to know where it is," we were finally directed to it.

It is on a tableland owned by Mr. Cortland Smith, and in the immediate vicinity of three Federal forts which marked the line of the defenses of the city of Washington. It is also exactly southwest from the Capitol building at a distance of six miles.

SOUTHWEST No. 5.

This stone like the preceding one is broken, and the top seems to be lost. The entire base, with a few inches of the finished portion, was found lying on the ground in approximately the same spot where it had originally been placed, if we may judge by the location of the original stone on Andrew Ellicott's first map of the District.

It is on the land of Mr. Francis L. Smith in a cultivated valley near the east bank of a small creek, some 200 feet north of the Leesburg turnpike. Here again we were indebted to one of the near-by inhabitants, Mr. Isaac Dean, for his services as guide and conductor, he cheerfully leaving his work for that purpose. We note here, curiously enough, that one idea seemed to possess the minds of all the men with whom



S.W. No. 7. GLEN CARLYN.

ON LAND OF W. H. TORRISON.
In bad condition.



ON LAND OF G. E. BLOSS.
Stone in very poor condition.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

we chanced to talk, viz., that we were surveying the line for the purpose of taking the Virginia portion back into the District. The women with whom we conversed almost without exception were of the opinion that we were surveying for another electric railroad into Washington city.

SOUTHWEST No. 6.

Stone No. 6 is exactly southwest from the White House. It is in the woods, and somewhat difficult to find. It is located on land belonging to Mr. Frank Payne, about 550 feet southeast from the Columbia turnpike, which crosses the line in front of Mr. Payne's residence. This was the second Virginia stone to be placed at uneven distances, but as the end of the mile fell in a little stream near the turnpike, the stone was set 16 rods or poles back on firm ground, and is marked "5 Miles 304 Poles." It is in poor condition, badly battered and chipped, only a part of the lettering being legible.

One half mile west of this is Bailey's Cross Roads, and appetite is quickened even now at the remembrance of a luscious repast of crackers, cheese, sardines and coca cola partaken of in a tired, dusty and almost famished condition, at the corner grocery store at that place. At this stone we are exactly southwest of the central part of Washington City.

SOUTHWEST No. 7.

Stone No. 7 stands in an open field, on land of Mr. W. H. Torrison, and is easily reached, being only a short walk north of the village of Glen Carlyn. It leans slightly and is in poor condition, showing several scars which seem to have been made by bullets or grape shot.

Our picture well shows the battered condition of the stone. Its nearness to Fort Ramsay and Fort Buffalo may perhaps account for its condition, as it appears that many of the old stones were used as targets by the soldiers encamped in the forts. We notice here a change in the size of the Roman letters in the words "Jurisdiction," etc., as compared with the same words on stone No. 1, the letters being much larger. This stone is exactly southwest from Georgetown, and about four and one half miles distant.

SOUTHWEST No. 8.

No. 8 stands in an open field belonging to Mr. G. E. Bloss, on what is called Upton Hill. It is in very poor condition, badly worn in places, somewhat broken, and, according to our compass, not in the proper position. Marcus Baker, in his monograph, says: "According to the statement of Mr. Morgan Steeves, who has lived in Falls Church for forty years, it stood near the road on the side of Throckmorton or Upton Mill. It fell with a caving bank, lay for some time where it fell, and finally disappeared some twelve or fifteen years ago." If this be true, then the lost has been found, and it is now reset, as before mentioned, some one hundred yards southwest of the road leading to Ballston.

North of this stone is the handsome summer residence of A. M. Lothrop, of the firm of Woodward & Lothrop.

Fort Ramsay occupied the western portion of the hill upon which the stone is placed.

The view of the distant city of Washington from this point is a most entrancing one, and once seen will never be forgotten.

On the 29th of March, 1791, General Washington, accompanied by the three commissioners—Daniel Car-



NEAR FALLS CHURCH R. R. STATION.
The only stone in good condition.



WEST CORNER-STONE.
This shows its broken condition.

70 .vnu ABSTRACT

roll, Dr. David Stuart, of Alexandria, and Thomas Johnson, of Maryland—and by Major Pierre Charles l'Enfant and Andrew Ellicott, surveyors, rode over so much of the line as could be easily reached, and on the evening of the next day signed and sealed the definite agreement with the owners of the land on which the city of Washington now stands. We can well imagine the satisfaction with which Major l'Enfant said to General Washington as they reined in their horses on the brow of Upton Hill, "Sir, the line crosses where we are now standing. Look; what a prospect!" There, in full view, was the prosperous city of Georgetown, already half a century old, circled by hills, while waving trees and fertile farms in the distance showed the location of the future Capital of the Western Continent.

This stone is about one mile south of the village of Falls Church.

SOUTHWEST No. 9.

"S. W. No. 9," stands in a meadow on the bank of Four Mile Run, which here is only a fordable stream, at the side of an embankment made nearly twenty years ago for the roadbed of a narrow-gauge railroad, which, however, was never completed.

It is in good condition, and the inscription is easily read. It is near the edge of a cleared field on land belonging to Mr. Greenough, but thoroughly hidden in summer time by a mass of foliage and vines, alder and blackberry bushes. About one half mile north is the village of Falls Church, and one half mile east is the Falls Church railroad station.

THE WEST CORNER STONE.

Supposed to be exactly ten miles from the south corner, but according to measurements made by the Coast

and Geodetic Survey in 1879, actually ten statute miles and 230.5 feet therefrom. The west corner stone stands in the edge of a little grove of trees a short distance northwest of the brick residence of Mr. M. E. De Putron, and nearly one mile north of the village of Falls Church, Va.

The stone is badly broken, two large pieces which have been broken off lying by its side, on the ground.

Unlike the north corner stone, near Woodside, Md., and the east corner stone, near Chesapeake Beach railroad station, Maryland, both of which are three feet high and marked vertically, this stone is but two feet in height, and similar in size to the other intermediate stones. The lettering, however, is different, on this stone going "round the corner," a part of the inscription being on each side.

A large oak tree, twenty-five inches in diameter, and apparently seventy-five feet high, has grown up so close to the stone as to seriously endanger it. In order to preserve the stone the tree should be cut down. As on all the Virginia stones, the date is 1791. Two magnificent oak trees, each three or four feet in diameter, mark the entrance to the country road on which the stone is situated.

Turning at right angles at this point the line of the District runs northwesterly to and across the Potomac River.

NORTHWEST No. 1.

The first stone on this line—"N. W. No. 1"—stands in the heart of a grove of giant chestnut trees, on land owned by Mr. James Anderson, and occupied by Mr. Frank Crimmins.

It is considerably broken at the top, the date being entirely destroyed. It is marked "1 mile," while the



IN THE CRIMMINS WOODS.
Badly broken and scarred.



ON THE JAMES PAYNE ESTATE.
Near the line of Old Dominion Electric R. R.

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Alcohol

first one on the northeast line, in Hon. Blair Lee's field, near Silver Spring, Maryland, is marked "Mile 1," and the first one on the southeast line, near Capitol Heights, D. C., is marked "Miles 1."

NORTHWEST No. 2.

"N. W. No. 2" stands in the edge of the woods on land belonging to the James Payne estate, at the top of a deep cutting, through which the Old Dominion and Great Falls Railroad passes, near the station known as Catons. It is in poor condition, being badly shattered, both on its edges and top. We note here the use of italics in the words "*of the*" which, with one or two exceptions, is continued thereafter. On the stone prior to this these words are in small Roman capitals.

NORTHWEST No. 3

"N. W. No. 3" stands on a sloping hillside in the midst of a thick wood. Mr. Marcus Baker says in his paper on the Boundary Stones, in 1895, "it was broken off below the ground and the top was lying on the ground some 25 feet away from the base." To-day the stone is erect and in proper position. A cart load of good-sized stones placed around the base of the stone would seem to indicate the truth of his statement as to the stone being broken. Mr. John Langton, a storekeeper near Walker's Chapel, says that the stone was broken off by the Federal army wagons during the Civil War.

In order to find solid ground it was carried forward fourteen rods, or poles, beyond the mile end, and we find the stone marked three Miles and fourteen Poles.

It is on land of Henry C. Strohman, and it is the last stone set in Virginia soil.

From this point the line continues to and across the Potomac River, crossing it a half mile above Chain Bridge. Fort Ethan Allen, one of the largest of the Federal forts, erected in September, 1861, by General Baldy Smith's division, is a short distance east of the stone.

The line which we have thus traversed and pictured begins at Jones' Point lighthouse, on the extreme south-westerly point of land below Alexandria, passes over Shuter's Hill and Braddock Heights, keeping for nearly five miles in close proximity to the Alexandria and Leesburg turnpike, crosses the Columbia turnpike near Bailey's Cross-roads, west of the village of Glen Carlyn, over the crown of Upton Hill, 420 feet above tidewater, and the highest point of the entire forty miles, thence skirting the village of Falls Church to the west corner, the most remote point in the District from the Capitol, then turning at right angles, passing through woods and fields to the Potomac River.

With two exceptions the stones are all in poor condition, showing signs of neglect since they ceased to be the boundary stones of the District, and one of these two has been removed and is lying on the ground. Two have been broken off and lost, and one has been broken in two, but restored to place. One is hopelessly lost, and one, the initial stone, is not visible, but is confidently believed to be in perfect condition.

The present occasion seems to be a fitting one to call attention in some public manner to the neglected and dilapidated condition of these earliest landmarks of the Federal government, and to the absolute necessity of prompt action if their preservation is thought to be desirable.

Although no longer a part of the District of Columbia, the territory mentioned is so intimately connected



ON LAND OF HENRY STROHMAN.
Broken below the surface.



THE INITIAL OR SOUTH CORNER-STONE IS UNDER THE SEA-WALL.

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with its early history that the one is at once associated with the other.

It would seem to be proper at this time to suggest that steps be taken either by the State of Virginia or by the counties of Alexandria and Fairfax to protect the existing stones from further depredations, except such as come from exposure to the elements, by the erection of a suitable iron fence some four or five feet square around each stone, so arranged that a surveyor might have access to it when necessary, but strong enough and high enough to keep out every one else.

New stones should be made and placed in those locations where the stones have been broken and lost, conforming in shape and size to the original stones.

Thus shall these early landmarks be preserved for the benefit of those who come after us.

**THE OLD CANNON FOUNDRY ABOVE GEORGETOWN, D. C., AND ITS FIRST OWNER,
HENRY FOXALL.**

By MADISON DAVIS.

(Read before the Society, February 11, 1907.)

In the "History of Western Maryland," by J. T. Scharf, Vol. 1, pages 135 and 136, the following statement is made concerning the condition of military affairs in the province of Maryland at the outbreak of the American Revolution:

"Great difficulty was experienced at the beginning of the war in obtaining supplies. The arsenal at Annapolis was almost empty. To overcome these difficulties, the Convention gave encouragement and gratuities for the manufacture of saltpetre, materials for clothing, and munitions of war. Powder-mills were erected, and Colonel Hughes, of Washington County, agreed to furnish cannon for the province, and established a foundry on the Potomac River, one mile above Georgetown, where the first cannon were made in this country. A portion of the old stone building still remains, while broken fragments of cannon are at this time to be found in the stream of water that flows at the base of the building. Daniel and James Hughes, of the Antietam Iron Works in Washington County, and John Yoast, of Georgetown, also made cannon for the Revolution. Shells and cannon were also made at Catoctin Furnace, in Frederick County, by James and Thomas Johnson, during the Revolution, and some were used at the siege of Yorktown."

These statements seem to have been made with almost a reckless disregard of historical accuracy. Some of them are in the main true; but so far as they apply to



PORTRAIT OF HENRY FOXALL.

From a painting now in possession of his great-granddaughter,
Miss Osborne, Georgetown, D. C.

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the establishment of cannon foundries at or near Georgetown, they have only the flimsiest foundation. Nevertheless, they have been accepted as true by so eminent a scholar as Professor Bernard C. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Library, of Baltimore, Maryland, who, in a paper entitled "Western Maryland in the Revolution," published in Volume XX of the *Johns Hopkins University Studies*, repeats the account of the Hughes cannon foundry in the following words:

"The first cannon said to have been cast in this country were made at the foundry of Colonel Daniel Hughes, on the Potomac River, one mile above Georgetown. A portion of the building yet remained in 1880, while broken fragments of cannon were still to be found in the stream of water flowing at the base of the building."

Omitting all discussion of the allegation of these two writers that the first cannon made in this country were turned out at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, except to say that it is probably incorrect,* as well as of the further assertion that cannon were made at Catoctin Furnace by James and Thomas Johnson for the use of the Revolutionary forces, which is also probably incorrect, but concerning which I have not fully informed myself, I propose to show that the story of the Georgetown foundries, agreeable as it is to our local pride, and however harmonious it may be with that burning spirit of patriotic enthusiasm which permeated the province of Maryland all through the period of the Revolution, and nowhere more thoroughly than in that part of its territory now comprehended in the District

* In Harper's "Book of Facts," p. 147, it is said that cannon were cast at Lynn, Mass., by Henry Leonard, in 1647, and at Orr's Foundry, Bridgewater, in 1648. In 1735 the Hope Foundry was established in Rhode Island, where six heavy cannon ordered by the authorities were cast in 1775. The heaviest guns used at this time were 18-pounders.

of Columbia, is a myth, having, however, like most myths, a germ of truth as its nucleus.

In the first place, the only streams worthy of the name emptying into the Potomac River that can be supposed to answer to the description given, are, first, the little creek that has its outlet near the terminus of the old Potomac Canal, which is over two miles above Georgetown; and, second, the creek, formerly known as Deep Branch and Mill Branch, now universally called Foundry Branch, flowing into the river at a point nearly opposite the Three Sisters, a group of partly submerged rocks just one mile above High Street in Georgetown. The first of these streams is unquestionably *not* the one to which Scharf and Steiner refer. It is true that near it is an old stone building, and that this building was in a state of ruin in 1880; but the history of this structure is perfectly well known, and that it was ever used for the making of cannon, either before or after the Revolution, is absolutely beyond belief. Its mission was a more pacific one. It was built soon after the planting of Georgetown, as authorized by act of the Assembly of Maryland in 1751, was used in the beginning as a flouring-mill, and continued to be so used down to a time within the memory of many of our oldest inhabitants. The old race may still be traced to its source at the Little Falls; the architectural arrangement of the building is utterly irreconcilable with its use for foundry purposes; within its walls may be exactly located the places where the burrs were once busily running; and I am not sure but that half-buried fragments of these stones, instead of broken cannon, are yet observable in the approaches to the crumbling ruin. The other stream—Deep, or Mill, or Foundry Branch—is no doubt that to which Scharf and Steiner make allusion. It is within the given distance from

Georgetown; it has near its banks a ruined stone building; and it seems to otherwise accord with the description given. But upon examination of the Maryland and District records, it is ascertained that none of the land contiguous to this brook ever belonged to or was leased by any person of the name of Hughes, and going back to the condemnation of the surrounding land in 1762, which is early enough as a starting-point, the list of owners does not include the name of Hughes. It seems to have been acquired and from time to time transferred by a number of different persons representing families still well known in Maryland and Georgetown—Murdock, Lingan, Thompson, Bayly, Deakins, Tillotson and others—until 1800 and several years thereafter, when three or four tracts, more particularly connected with the subject of this paper, were purchased by Henry Foxall, concerning whom more will be said later on. If a foundry had been established at this point in the days of the Revolution, certainly the ground on which it stood would have been held by the projector either as owner or lessee.

In the second place, no local tradition points to the existence of a cannon foundry anywhere near Georgetown *during the period of the Revolution*; no writers except those above mentioned make any reference to such an establishment; and there are no remains or ruins in existence to give the appearance of probability to the story other than those to be hereafter described, and whose later origin can be easily established. There may, indeed, have been found as late as 1880 along the banks of the little creek some pieces of cannon; but the guns from which these fragments came were not cast in the days of seventy-six: they were the imperfect product of a manufactory started nearly a quarter of a

century later, and which continued in the same general line of work for fifty years afterward.*

Besides the foregoing reasons, the unsuitability of a spot on the Potomac River one mile above Georgetown as the location of a cannon foundry, *at the beginning of the Revolution*, may be reasonably urged. The place was quite distant from the sources of supply of fuel, lime, and iron ore; the river above was not navigable; the Potomac Canal existed only in the prophetic brain of its great originator, George Washington; and the cost of wagoning pig-iron from the furnaces where it was made, would have been enormous. It would have been infinitely preferable to establish a cannon foundry farther west in Maryland, or at some other point, where iron ores existed, where the materials used in fluxing them were in close contiguity, and whence the finished product of the concern could have been more readily and economically conveyed to the east and south, where the operations of the impending war were more likely to be carried on. And this fact was obvious to the business men of that day; for we find that three iron manufactories, with the advantages referred to, had already been founded in Maryland—one known as Snowden's Iron Works, between Bladensburg and Baltimore; one near Frederick, called the Catoctin Furnace; and the other at Elizabethtown, afterwards Hagerstown, quite well known as the Antietam Iron Works.†

* The writer of this paper remembers having seen at the place mentioned, when he was a lad, several pieces of a cannon that had burst in testing. He was informed by his father, that the exploded gun had been cast in the year 1850, when James Maynadier Mason, executor of General John Mason, was superintending the operations of the neighboring foundry.

† Prior to the Revolution there was a smelting and iron-founding establishment doing business at Colchester in Fairfax County, Va.,

A still further reason against the correctness of the story under discussion lies in the fact that one of the proprietors of the Antietam establishment was Daniel Hughes, the man who is said to have built and carried on the cannon foundry near Georgetown; and in the additional fact that he and his partner, Samuel Hughes, (not James Hughes as Scharf erroneously calls him,) at the very incipency of the war, patriotically proposed to enter upon the manufacture of cannon for the province, at the Antietam works, and thereupon actually began the work under a contract with the Council of Safety. It further appears that they were inexperienced in the making of ordnance, and naturally there was some delay and more or less of failure in carrying out their agreement.* For example, although their contract was made long before the close of the year 1775, it was not until the latter part of March, 1776, that they had been able to produce a single gun; and even then the piece was found on trial to be defective, notwithstanding the confident predictions of the makers. The following letter as to this matter, dated March 22, 1776, from Mr. William Lux, of Baltimore, to the Council of Safety, is quite interesting:

“Mr. Hughes cast one 18-pounder on Monday, and it was bored. He expected to have four ready last night, and begs to have some person sent up to prove them, that if any fault be found, he may remedy it before he proceeds too far. He

near the mouth of Occoquan Creek, the foundation walls of the structure being still traceable; but the building itself, as well as the village around it, has long since disappeared. The celebrated George Mason, who lived at Gunston Hall, about twenty miles below Georgetown, on the Potomac, near Colchester, in one of his letters, suggested that this foundry might be used for the supply of cannon to the American Army; but there is no evidence that it ever was so used.

* For references to this contract, see “American Archives,” Fourth Series, vol. 5, pages 463, 504, 1594, and vol. 6, page 1256.

thinks they will answer your expectations, and turn out exceedingly fine."

The letter showing the action of the Council of Safety on the request of Mr. Lux, addressed to Captain Burgess, an expert in such matters, is also interesting, as showing the names of the contractors and the location of their foundry:

"The Council of Safety have appointed you to prove the cannon to be supplied this province by Messrs. Daniel and Samuel Hughes, and request you will immediately repair for that purpose to their works at Antietam."

Some of the difficulties encountered by these contractors, who it is pleasing to record were men of high character and disinterested patriotism, may be surmised by reading the proceedings of the Maryland Convention of May 24, 1776:

"On hearing Mr. Daniel Hughes as to the execution of the contract made by Samuel Hughes, on behalf of himself and the said Daniel Hughes, for the casting and furnishing of cannon for the public—

"*Resolved*, That inquiry be made what is the standard proof of the cannon contracted for on account of the continent, and that the same proof be had of the cannon to be furnished by the said Hugheses on their contract.

"*Resolved*, That notwithstanding the said Hugheses have not furnished the public with cannon within the time they contracted to do the same, that, on their pursuing the work with diligence, the Council of Safety for the time being take the whole number contracted for on the account and for the use of the public."

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the unhappy early experiences of these two patriotic men turned out to be for their and their country's good;

for by the skill thereby acquired, they not only succeeded in supplying the province with good cannon, but they were able to enter into an arrangement with the Continental Congress whereby the army of General Washington and several other branches of the Continental forces were greatly aided.*

In view of all these facts—the existence, prior to 1775, of a smeltery and foundry belonging to Daniel and Samuel Hughes, at Hagerstown, where iron ore, limestone, and fuel were easily obtainable; the offer of these men to devote their establishment to public use in the expectation of war with England; their actual entry into contract with the province of Maryland in fulfillment of this offer; and the great difficulties they met with in carrying out their agreement, so that it was not until after the Declaration of Independence that they succeeded in producing satisfactory work†—

* In a letter from the Maryland Council of Safety to the Maryland delegates in Congress, Daniel Hughes is "recommended as a man of credit, and as one who might safely have a contract for the manufacture of cannon. The first cannon cast by him would not stand proof; but now they are very good. He would be willing to enlarge his works if he could be assured by Congress that his year's product would all be taken." (See "American Archives," Fifth Series, vol. 1, p. 219.)

The recommendation thus given led to the following action:

"CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, *July 19, 1776.*—*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to contract for the making cannon be empowered to contract with Messrs. Hughes for one thousand tons of cannon on the terms by them proposed."

"CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, *July 22, 1776.*—Committee reported that they have executed a contract with Messrs. Hughes, in which is a covenant to advance \$8,000.

"*Resolved*, That an order for \$8,000 be drawn on the treasurers in favor of Daniel and Samuel Hughes." (See "American Archives," Fifth Series, vol. 1, pp. 1585 and 1587.)

† In support of this assertion the following letter from the Council of Safety to Samuel and Daniel Hughes is presented:

"ANNAPOLIS, *July 5, 1776.*

"*Gentlemen:* The Convention have directed the Council of Safety to fortify Annapolis immediately. This cannot be done without you

I say, in view of all this, is it not rather preposterous to suppose that one of these men would have undertaken to build an entirely new and expensive plant, at a place distant from his base of supplies, and that he actually succeeded in his venture? This, too, it must be borne in mind, in face of the further fact that no record of the matter can be found in any other papers that have come down to us from those stirring times! The truth is, that Daniel Hughes made no such proposition to any of the several Committees of Observation in the province, to either branch of the Council of Safety, to the Maryland Convention, or to the Continental Congress. The allegation by Scharf in relation to this matter is entirely unsupported. The only facts that give the least show of plausibility to it are the offers made to the Council of Safety and to the Continental Congress by Daniel and Samuel Hughes to enlarge their manufactory at Hagerstown under certain conditions, and the existence, at the time that Scharf's and Steiner's histories were written, of an old foundry at Georgetown, where fragments of cannon were to be found. If either of these writers had made any real investigation of the matter, he would have found that the foundry in question had its origin in the removal of the seat of government from Philadelphia to the newly founded capital city on the banks of the Potomac in 1800; that neither Daniel nor Samuel Hughes, though

comply with your contract with the province, or as much thereof as you possibly can. You will therefore be pleased to send as many of the 18- and 9-pounders to Baltimore as may be in your power.

"Messrs. Daniel and Samuel Hughes."

(See "American Archives," Fourth Series, vol. 6, p. 1256.)

Reference is also made to a letter, dated March 19, 1776, from the Council of Safety to the New York Committee, asking for the loan of a small supply of ordnance, in which the statement is made that "every effort to provide cannon for the province of Maryland has so far failed."

they were both living at the time,* had anything whatever to do with its creation; that it was built and owned by a far-seeing Englishman, Henry Foxall by name, who had come over from Philadelphia for the purpose; that it was not in a state of ruin, as is intimated, though one of the buildings of which the concern consisted has since become a wreck; and that its work, until circumstances necessitated its discontinuance, had comprehended, from 1801 to 1849, the successful completion of probably ten or fifteen thousand guns of various calibres, to say nothing of shot and shell, by which the nation was immensely benefited, particularly in the War of 1812, and for which the first owner and his successor were paid millions of dollars.

Before proceeding to give an account of this foundry it is necessary to say that the assertion of Scharf that cannon were made in Georgetown during the Revolution by John Yoast, is equally without foundation. There isn't a shred of evidence out of which to attempt to weave such a story. The error may have arisen out of these facts: On the twentieth of August, 1775, a committee of the Maryland Convention to whom the subject had been referred reported that it was inadvisable to authorize the creation of a public gun manufactory; that it would be far better to rely on private enterprise for securing such guns as the troops of the province might need; that there were then in operation twelve gunsmith's shops—three in Baltimore, four in Frederick, one near Frederick, two in Hagerstown, one in Georgetown, and one in Jerusalemtown—each of which might be depended on to produce twenty guns a month. Thereupon contracts seem to have been entered into,

* In the list of the original purchasers of stock of the old Potomac Canal, originated and fostered by General Washington, we find the names of Daniel and Samuel Hughes, of Hagerstown, Md.

one of which was with the Georgetown gunsmith, John Yoast.* The guns here referred to were muskets, of course, though Scharf, in hastily reading the record, may have supposed that cannon were meant. Mr. Yoast no doubt faithfully carried out his contract for muskets, although he seems to have had some trouble in connection with it; but the assertion that he ever made a single cannon is utterly without authority, and is altogether unreasonable.†

The old Foxall Foundry, known in its early days as the Columbian Foundry, is still in existence. No business, however, is now carried on in its once busy precincts, and to the vast majority of the citizens of the District of Columbia even its location is unknown. But although it is now somewhat over a century old, it is yet in fairly good condition, with the exception of the larger of its two boring-mills, which is a hopeless ruin. Apart from this, the walls of the several buildings are all solid, and substantially without fault; and if the establishment were not situated out of the line of travel, or were within convenient reach of the commercial world, its ancient prosperity might yet be revived, not, however, in the character of an ordnance factory, for the

* In several parts of Scharf's history, Yoast is referred to as Henry Yoast.

† On this point, a letter to Yoast from the Council of Safety, dated March 26, 1776, will be found interesting:

"The Council of Safety desire you will be as expeditious as you possibly can in supplying the muskets you engaged to make for the province, and inform us whether you have any now completed, as we are in very great need of them, and will send for them as soon as you have a number ready." (*"American Archives," Fourth Series, vol. 5, p. 504.*)

During the progress of his work Yoast was charged by some malicious person with selling the public powder that had been furnished him by the Council for proving his guns; but after a careful investigation, he was exonerated.

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103-104-105



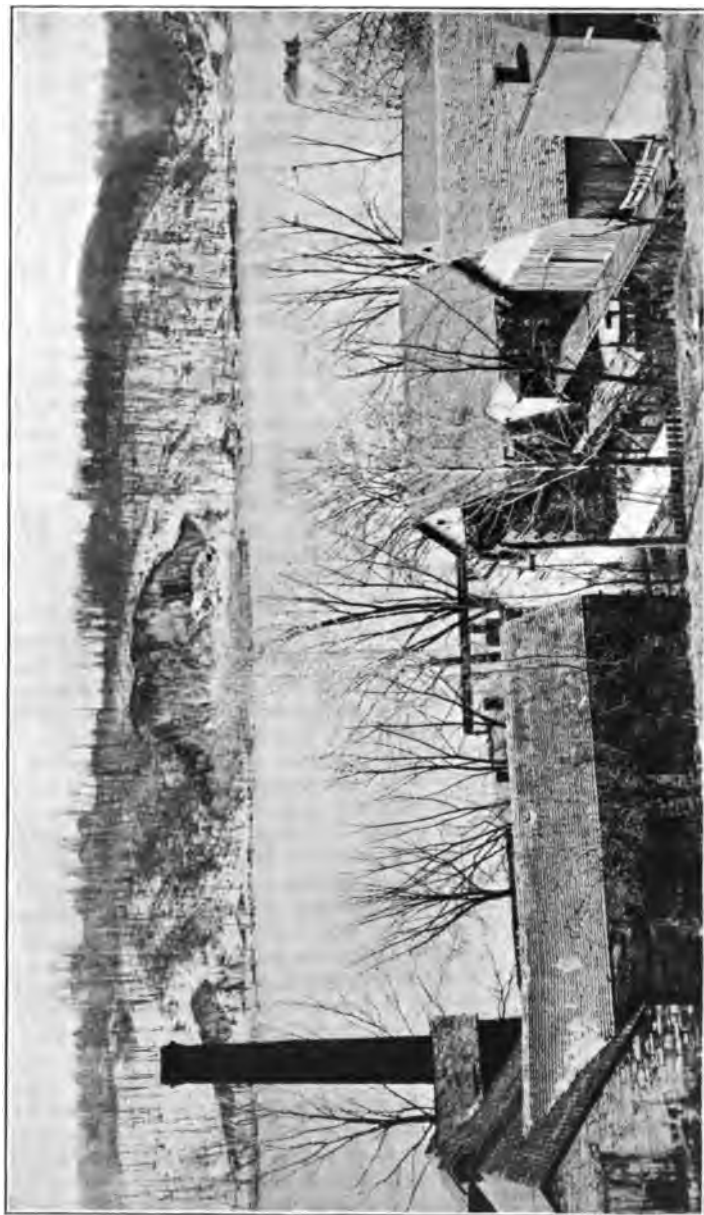
RUINS OF BORING MILL, PART OF THE FOXALL CANNON FOUNDRY.
From a photograph taken in 1907 by Rev. Robert M. Moore, pastor of Foundry Church, Washington, D. C.

TO THE
ADMINISTRATOR

Government is now largely its own manufacturer, but in some other line of mechanical enterprise, in which most of the buildings, without much repair, might be utilized for perhaps another century. At any rate, the old foundry, with the other shops immediately contiguous to it, is far from being a ruin, as the Maryland historians were led to believe. It is situated between the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River, about half a mile above the Aqueduct Bridge; but it can hardly be seen either from the public road along the berme side of the canal or from the towpath, being partly housed in and hidden by a huge frame structure used some years ago as an ice-house by the Independent Ice Company, and being more or less concealed by the bank of the canal. It is approachable by the towpath, or by a road lower down along the edge of the river; or it may be got at, with some difficulty now, by going up along the berme bank of the canal to the first road culvert above Georgetown, and then through the mud and water of that almost disused passageway to the southern end. The property at present consists of four or five acres of land, two stone buildings formerly used as molding and casting shops, two other stone houses, where mills for boring and finishing cannon were in use, and which contained also carpenter and pattern shops, other necessary branches of the cannon works, and a frame dwelling, besides the large wooden ice-house before referred to. In Foxall's time, and in fact until some years subsequent to the death of General Mason, Foxall's successor, the property took in also about two acres to the northward, part of which was a proving-ground, and on another part of which was situated a large four-story stone boring-mill and several buildings used as offices and as dwellings for some of the employees of the institution. This por-

tion of the old establishment was not separated from the rest except by the little stream running through it; and this was the case down to the time of building the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, when the tract was thereby cut in two, leaving the parts disconnected except by the culvert that still remains. On this northern tract (which is no longer a portion of the foundry property) the buildings have nearly all disappeared; but the walls of the old mill still stand in picturesque dilapidation. The ruin can be seen from the Cabin John railway cars, and attract the attention and curiosity of nearly everybody passing it. The buildings on the south of the canal have been connected with it ever since that great waterway was completed, so that water-power might be obtained whenever necessary; and there is a river front of 700 feet, which in former times was quite valuable on account of the facilities it afforded through wharves thereon constructed for the receipt of supplies and the shipment of the foundry's product. The owner of the foundry property is Mr. Robert Tenney, of Georgetown, who, while perhaps not realizing any adequate profit from his ownership, very commendably keeps the historic old place in a fair state of preservation. I do not know who is the possessor of the fraction of the old foundry property north of the canal. For many years it has been known as the Green Spring Place. It was at one time occupied as a brewery, and then as a pleasure-resort.

The first owner of the foundry — Henry Foxall — constructed it in 1801, making several additions to it from time to time until it passed into other hands. The land on which it stands was acquired by him through three several purchases, the first covered by a conveyance dated December 4, 1800, from Francis Deakins and wife; the second by a conveyance dated February



PART OF THE FOXALL CANNON FOUNDRY, GEORGETOWN, D. C.

From a photograph taken in the winter of 1907.

15, 1804, from John Templeman and wife; and the third by deed dated April 1, 1815, from Thomas Tillotson and wife. Other tracts of land in the immediate vicinity of the foundry were also bought by Mr. Foxall from time to time; so that he had a continuous tract from the river half a mile or more to the north, containing some sixty or seventy acres. The upper part of this tract, called the Spring Hill Farm, has been in the possession of Mr. Foxall's descendants ever since his death. It is now owned by Mr. Charles H. Cragin, the well-known Washington lawyer, and his sister, Mrs. Edith McCartney, great-grandchildren of the original purchaser.*

The foundry property was retained by Foxall until 1815, when, having decided to retire from business, he disposed of it to General John Mason, of Analostan Island, who continued the business up to the time of his death in 1849. For five years after this it remained an undivided part of the Mason estate, the operations of the foundry being superintended by James Maynardier Mason, one of the sons and executors of General Mason; but in 1854 a sale was made to Spencer B. Root, subsequently to John S. Berry, and so on through many vicissitudes and some litigation, down to its acquisition in 1888 by the present owner. After the sale to Root the foundry was operated for some years under the management of Kirkland & Duvall, both members of the firm having been employed by General Mason; but finding the business unprofitable in so inconvenient a location—having no government work to rely on—they moved into Georgetown. Since then the old establishment has been used for several purposes—at one time

* Since this paper was originally prepared, I have learned from an article appearing in the *Washington Evening Star* that Mr. Cragin and his sister have disposed of the property.

it was a distillery—but it never has been again put to its original use as a foundry.

Prior to his coming to Georgetown Mr. Foxall had been engaged in the iron business in Philadelphia, where he formed the acquaintance of nearly all the prominent officers of the government, his partner being Robert Morris, Jr., son of the celebrated financier of the Revolution. The designation of the concern was the Eagle Iron Works, and its business was principally the manufacture of cannon for the War and Navy Departments. Several writers have asserted that Foxall's partner in Philadelphia, and even in Georgetown, was Robert Morris, the father;* but this is probably a mistake, for in the early part of 1798 that great man—who had been financially embarrassed even before the time of Foxall's emigration to the United States, which is said to have been in 1797—was committed to a debtor's prison, from which he was not released until August 26, 1801.† Assuredly he could not have been a partner of Foxall during any portion of this period. Moreover, it will be seen by a perusal of the following extract from a letter recently received by the writer of this paper from Major General F. C. Ainsworth, Adjutant General of the United States army, that in at least two of the early arrangements made by the Secretary of War for obtaining supplies of cannon, Robert Morris, Jr., (and not the elder Morris,) was named as a partner or co-contractor with Foxall:

* Rev. W. M. Ferguson in his interesting book on "Methodism in Washington," and Miss S. Somerville Mackall, in her equally interesting story of the "Early Days of Georgetown," are among the writers who have made this mistake.

† See Allen C. Clark's "Greenleaf and Law in the Federal City," pages 30 to 35—a book that is at once unique and invaluable, and as interesting as a romance.

THE CITY OF
CALIFORNIA



PART OF THE FOXALL CANNON FOUNDRY, GEORGETOWN, D. C.
From a photograph taken in the winter of 1907.

TO THE
AMERICAN

"It appears from the records of this office that under date of September 11, 1799, a contract was entered into with Henry Foxall and Robert Morris, Jr., to furnish iron cannon for the use of the United States to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, the said cannon to be valued at one hundred and forty-six dollars sixty-six cents and two-thirds of a cent for every ton weight the said cannon shall weigh.

"These records also show that on May 20, 1800, a contract was entered into with Henry Foxall and Robert Morris, Jr., to deliver for the use of the United States 'iron cannon to be 24-pounders, iron cannon to be 18-pounders, and iron cannon to be 12-pounders, to the amount of twenty thousand dollars.' The price to be paid for these cannon was set at one hundred and forty-six dollars sixty-six cents and two-thirds of a cent per ton."

In subsequent arrangements with the Government, Foxall appears always as sole contractor. It is a noteworthy fact, too, that the first of these later arrangements, comprehending the manufacture of forty iron 24-pounder cannon and thirty 32-pounders, was dated December 20, 1800, just four days prior to Foxall's first acquisition of land in Georgetown. The bestowal at that particular time of this contract, which was no doubt carried out by means of the then projected new foundry, reasonably indicates that the Government had given a promise of encouragement to the enterprise, and affords also partial confirmation of the story, often alluded to as at least a tradition, that Thomas Jefferson, the then elected President, had induced Foxall, as a matter of importance to the Government, and it may be to the new city, to establish his foundry at the capital or contiguous thereto.*

* Owing to some restrictions that have been established in connection with the examination of the archives of the Navy Department, I have been unable to ascertain the nature and extent of the arrangements entered into with Mr. Foxall by that department.

From this time on, the foundry was continuously employed in the manufacture of cannon, of various calibres, for both the War and Navy Departments, together with shot and shell and gun-carriages, at prices which, while apparently very reasonable, yet brought to the proprietor handsome profits; and this work, especially during the War of 1812, when the Government had no establishment of its own, and when only a few other private establishments were available, was of great national usefulness. It is said, for example, that some of the guns that formed the armament of Commodore Perry's little fleet on Lake Erie in 1813, and which therefore contributed to his brilliant victory over the British, were cast at the Columbian Foundry and waggoned over the mountains, and so on to Perry's rendezvous, just prior to the battle.*

The capacity of the Columbian Foundry in Foxall's time was probably three hundred heavy guns and thirty thousand shot a year. This, at any rate, was the estimate made in 1836, twenty years after Foxall's retirement, (the works not having been materially changed,) by Brigadier General John E. Wool and Lieutenant Colonel G. Talcott, in a report made to the Secretary of War in connection with a proposition then under discussion to establish a national cannon foundry at the seat of government.† The power relied on to run the

* See "Reminiscences of Georgetown," by Rev. T. B. Balch; also "Methodism in Washington," by Rev. W. M. Ferguson.

† See American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. VI., pp. 82-91. It is interesting to note that General Wool and Colonel Talcott reported that the only foundry sites in the District of Columbia worthy of consideration were between the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River on land extending from the Chain Bridge to Georgetown. One of the sites examined comprehended the tract, containing 55 acres, from the bridge to the mill, now in ruins, generally known as Eads's Mill. Another site took in the land, about 42 acres, between the mill and the old guard-lock of the canal, a short distance beyond the

works was obtained by Foxall from the little stream mentioned by Scharf and Steiner; and this continued to be the case when he retired from the business, though after the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal arrangements were made by his successor to secure power therefrom should it ever be needed.*

Foxall's selection of this foundry site, before the power of steam had begun to be extensively utilized in manufacturing establishments, was an indication of his sagacity; for the land acquired was cheap; it included water-power sufficient for his purposes; it afforded him facilities for obtaining supplies from Western Maryland through the Potomac Canal, whose completion was so largely due to the exertions of General Wash-

first waste-weir of the canal above Georgetown. The third site included the lands and buildings of the Columbian Foundry, then belonging to General John Mason, containing about seven acres, with the addition of ten acres to the west, belonging to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. The site recommended by the two officers was the second.

* The dam by means of which Foxall secured his water-power was built about a quarter of a mile above the ruined stone boring-mill to which reference has been made, the lake thus formed being about 25 feet deep. The water flowing from this dam was led through a race which extended along the hillside to the west and above the bed of the creek to an overshot wheel connected with the machinery of the mill, after which the water was conveyed by a trunk to the eastern side of the stream, and thence through a short additional race and a second trunk to the smaller boring-mill immediately contiguous to the foundry. When the Chesapeake and Ohio canal was afterwards built, the water from the race was carried under the canal by means of an iron tube. The valley of the creek has been greatly altered since the days of Foxall and Mason by the building of an immense sewer, which for a considerable distance now receives the waters of the stream, and by the necessary quarrying and grading in connection with that work; but the location and extent of the dam, and the course of the race at least down to the first boring-mill, can be distinctly seen at this day. The projecting ends of the iron tube on the two sides of the canal are also visible, and are the subject of much speculation among those who now and then visit the place.

ington after the Revolution, and whose outlet into the river was only a short distance above; it gave him conveniences for shipping by the river the product of the works; and we have the testimony of a committee of the House of Representatives that the site in other respects was an admirable one.*

The amount of work turned out by the Columbian Foundry throughout its ownership by Foxall and his successor, Mason, was very considerable, and must have been of tremendous importance to the country; for it should be remembered that during all this time the Government had no foundry of its own, and was compelled to satisfy its needs through only four private concerns—one at West Point, N. Y., one at Pittsburg, Pa., one near Richmond, Va., and the other in the District of Columbia; and these, though constantly worked, and with skill and integrity, were barely sufficient.

There are three incidents in the history of the old foundry that are worthy of mention:

First.—In 1807 Mr. Foxall began to fear that the time was approaching when the thought, labor, and money expended by him in building up his plant would practically be lost; for the officers of the Government had begun to think that a national establishment, in the District of Columbia, directly under the control of military men, would be far better than one in the hands of private contractors. This opinion was shared by Henry Dearborn, the Secretary of War, who, after personally conferring with Foxall about the matter, did not scruple to ask his views in writing, and his advice as a practical man. The answer given shows the innate nobility and patriotism of this remarkable man. He did not go to Mr. Jefferson, his firm friend, and ask him to call off the Secretary of War; he did not whim-

* See American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. VI, p. 414.

per and plead that the Government should further sustain him, as a matter of good faith and simple justice, after his very heavy outlay; he did not argue that a government shop would probably fail from lack of experience in its officers; he did not say—which would have been undoubtedly true—that the Department would have to pay more for its guns in the long run than by getting them from private foundries. On the contrary, he frankly stated that in his judgment the proposed undertaking would be a wise one; that in a short time the employees selected by the Government to do its work would acquire all the skill that might be needed; that he himself would give his best services and the benefit of his long experience in England and this country to make the establishment a success; and he recommended, not that the Government should buy the already equipped Columbian Foundry, and thus in a measure save him from loss, as many another man would have done, but that it should construct an entirely new concern, the details of which he candidly explained, on its own land at Greenleaf's Point in the city of Washington, where, indeed, the War Department did eventually erect an ordnance manufactory and arsenal. He wound up this notable and disinterested letter by the following ingenuous statement:

“While I have been endeavoring to throw my ideas together on paper, and give my opinions at large on the necessity and utility of a national foundry, I think you will agree with me that I have done it like one that had no establishment of the kind of his own, and not like one who has an establishment of the kind, and who has nearly his all invested in it; and this done at the particular request of the Government; and also that at the time they shall withdraw their aid and patronage therefrom, it will as a manufactory, with all its

expensive machinery, become useless and of little value to me its proprietor."*

Second.—When in August, 1814, the British army under General Ross captured the city of Washington and destroyed the public buildings, Mr. Foxall no doubt began again to fear that the Columbian Foundry would be lost to him; for what would have been more natural than that the enemy, knowing him to be an Englishman by birth, and that his gun-plant had been working night and day to supply the Government with the necessary munitions of war, should have regarded it as worthy of destruction! There is a tradition, at any rate, that Ross during his short occupancy of the capital sent a detachment of troops to Georgetown for the purpose of destroying the foundry; but that persistent rumors of the concentration and return of the American army after its retreat from Bladensburg, and a frightful storm of lightning, wind, and rain, induced these vandals to return to their associates before accomplishing their mission.† In fact, the supposed intention of the British to destroy the foundry is founded upon something more than tradition. It is fairly borne out by the following statement of an English writer who accompanied the army of General Ross as a subaltern:

"The troops, . . . after having put to the sword all who were found in the house from which the shots were fired, and reduced it to ashes, . . . proceeded without a moment's delay to burn and destroy *everything in the most distant degree connected with the Government.*"‡

* See American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I, pp. 215-217.

† See Ferguson's "Methodism in Washington"; also a pamphlet issued by the congregation of the Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C., upon the occasion of the dedication of their new church building in 1904.

‡ See "Campaigns of the British Army at Washington," by Rev. George Robert Gleig, pp. 129-130.

It is also sustained by a statement in Christian Hines's "Reminiscences," to the effect that just after the retreat of the British army he had organized an expedition to repair Fort Washington, on the Potomac, in order that successful resistance might be made to the return of the British fleet under Captain Gordon, which everybody was expecting, for the purpose of carrying out Ross's intention to destroy the Foxall foundry.*

Third.—In 1836, while General Mason was proprietor of the Columbian Foundry, the old idea of a national establishment, which notwithstanding the strong support given it by Foxall in 1807, had failed or been abandoned, was revived, and the proposition was vigorously urged. General Mason was of course consulted; but he had very different views regarding the matter from those of his disinterested predecessor. He did not propose, if he could help it, to have his property ruined by the creation of a new and up-to-date establishment belonging to the nation, and no doubt he sincerely felt that the best policy for the Government to pursue would be to create a larger plant upon the basis of the private one already in existence. In other words, he thought that his own property should be purchased, and altered or enlarged to meet the public wants. He therefore bestirred himself at once, particularly among his friends in Congress, and succeeded in having the Committee on Military Affairs bring in a report recommending the purchase of his plant for \$75,000, and the acquisition of ten acres of adjoining land belonging to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company for the erection of an addition to the manufactory; and this notwithstanding the fact that a board of army officers had condemned the proposition to buy the Mason property, upon the ground

* "Early Recollections of Washington," by Christian Hines, p. 57.

mainly that it was too contracted for Government use. The Congressional report which was made by Hon. Richard M. Johnson, and was quite elaborate, has an interesting accompaniment, prepared by Mason himself, giving in great detail a schedule of the lands, buildings, water-power, machinery, and tools of the establishment, which is worthy of examination by those who are interested in the subject.* I therefore attach a copy of it as a supplement to this paper.

The creation of the Columbian Foundry by Henry Foxall, and the successful administration of its affairs by him for fifteen years, resulting in his amassing considerable wealth, in developing almost a national reputation, and in gaining for him the unqualified respect of the officers with whom he had to deal, show him to have been a shrewd, discreet, intelligent, and above all an honest man. But aside from his connection with the Government, his whole career is worthy of attention and admiration. For this reason I present the following biographical sketch, the facts in which I have garnered from various sources, but more particularly from a short but well-written article, which appeared in the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* for August, 1824, 3d series, pages 505 to 508, an English periodical, prepared by one who was evidently an intimate acquaintance of Foxall—the Rev. Joseph Entwistle, a Wesleyan clergyman:†

Henry Foxall was born in Monmouthshire, England, on the 24th of May, 1758, of very respectable parents,

* See American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. VI, pp. 414–418.

† My other sources of information are my father, Addison L. Davis, whose informant was General John Mason; the late James Lawrenson, of Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Harriet Cropley, who married a grandson of Mr. Foxall; a paper prepared by Mr. Foxall McKenney, grandson; and Mr. Charles H. Cragin and Mrs. Edith McCartney, great-grandchildren; besides general tradition.



PROFILE PORTRAIT OF HENRY FOXALL.

From a painting now in possession of the Trustees of Foundry Church,
Washington, D. C.

who lived chiefly in West Bromley, near Birmingham, in which busy city he became an iron moulder, and was otherwise thoroughly educated in the various branches of the iron trade. They were pious people, faithful followers of the celebrated John Wesley, and intimate friends of Francis Asbury who is sometimes called the St. Paul of American Methodism.* They endeavored, we may naturally assume, to bring him up so as to pursue the same straight and narrow path in life that they had been treading. But in this they only partially succeeded; for while he matured into an upright, large-hearted, and courageous man, never afraid to avow his convictions whenever appropriate or necessary, and so impressing his fellowmen with a sense of his integrity that his spoken promises were as good as his written obligations, yet his general course was not a religious one, and he had in his make-up more or less of a restlessness of spirit that made him rather dissatisfied with his somewhat contracted environment. Accordingly we find that in 1794, in the fullness of his manhood, he left Birmingham for Ireland, where he had the superintendency of some important iron-works, near Dublin, and afterwards at Carrick-on-Shannon, and that in 1797, being still discontented with his condition, he left Ireland for the United States, landing in the city of Philadelphia, and going at once into the business in which he had been brought up. He had married in England, in 1780, his wife being Ann Harward, of Stourport, Worcestershire, a sweet Christian lady, and had no doubt accumulated a little

* In the paper prepared by the grandson of Mr. Foxall, referred to in the preceding note, the statement is made that the parents of Mr. Foxall were zealous Church of England people, and that their children were all baptized and brought up as Episcopalians. The further statement is made that the wife of Foxall was a pious Methodist, under whose influence he became a member of that Society.

fortune out of the savings of his eighteen years of steady work, which was to be the basis of his business and the amassing of still greater wealth in the New World. While in Philadelphia he had the misfortune to lose his wife by death. His partner in Philadelphia, as has been before stated, was Robert Morris, Jr., son of the illustrious banker of that name, who, next to Washington, did more, perhaps, to bring success to the cause of the American colonies in the struggle for independence than any other man in the country. Their manufactory was called the Eagle Iron Works, wherein they did a general foundry and machine business; but their specialty was the making of cannon for the War Department. They did not, however, remain together very long. Foxall severed his connection with Morris in 1800, and in the same year came to Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, where he built the Columbian Foundry, of which he was sole proprietor, continuing as such and in the making of cannon, cannon shot, and gun carriages for the General Government until 1815, when he sold the property and good-will to General John Mason. In 1816, after substantially settling up all his affairs, he left Georgetown for England, where he married a second time, he being then 58 years of age.* He subsequently returned to Georgetown, but in 1823 he again visited his native country, residing at Handsworth, near Birmingham. There he died December 11, 1823, in the 66th year of his age.

Before he went to Ireland Foxall, as we have learned,

* In a paper prepared by one of the grandsons of Mr. Foxall, hereinbefore referred to, the allegation is made that the second marriage of Foxall took place in Philadelphia, in December, 1799, his wife being a widow, Margaret Smith, whose maiden name was Heberton, sister-in-law of Matthew Newkirk, one of the merchant princes of Philadelphia.

was not of a religious turn of mind. Though a believer in Christianity, he was of cheerful, sociable, and rather fashionable inclinations; and he indulged during his moments of leisure in such worldly pleasures as came his way that were not noticeably tinctured with immorality or bad taste. But after a short residence in Ireland he was converted, under the influence of the Methodists—but mainly through the persuasions of his wife—his change of heart being so pronounced that he began to publicly preach, under authority of the society, as an exhorter or lay minister—an ecclesiastical function which he continued to exercise up to the day of his death. It is said that by this course, and by his consistent refusal to join any longer in questionable secular amusements, particularly on the Sabbath Day, he seriously offended a number of his wealthy friends and patrons, with whom he had been a social favorite. Notwithstanding this conversion, however, he was far from being an unreasonable or fanatical devotee; and after he came to America he gave abundant evidence of large liberality of thought, and of almost entire freedom from puritanical austerity. It was his custom, however, to have in his house daily family prayer—a practice then almost universal among Methodists, and it is to be hoped not yet wholly abandoned; but he liked innocent gayety, was quite hospitable, enjoyed the pleasures of the table, was fond of music, and dearly loved the society of even worldly people of virtue, education, and refinement. The story goes that around the social board at his house were not infrequently gathered such men as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Henry Dearborn, Gouverneur Morris, Francis S. Key, General John Mason, Christopher Hughes, John S. Skinner, and many others of local and national reputation. He and Mr. Jefferson, it is

said, were on particularly intimate and friendly terms, on account of their innate sympathy and congeniality of thought, as well as by reason of similarity of tastes, each being somewhat devoted to architecture and music, and both being natural mechanics. Music was their pet diversion. This is not infrequently a sort of safety-valve with busy men; Jean Paul, you know, says that besides Frederick the Great's baton of command always lay his flute. Still, in spite of all these things, which some severe religionists might call trivialities, Mr. Foxall was really a devout man, and perfectly true to his religious convictions. He was an unswerving believer in the immortality of the soul, and in the Scriptures; but like many other believers, he did not rely for his faith on books alone: he could plainly see God's hand and his promise of the resurrection in every green leaf burgeoning through every spring-time.* He was a faithful member of the Methodist Society of Georgetown; he was a trustee and a staunch friend, financially and otherwise, of the first Methodist Church in Washington—the old Ebenezer Church, later known as Fourth Street Church, in that section of the city known as the Navy Yard Hill; he built a church for the colored people of Georgetown, and gave them the ground on which the church stood; he was also a liberal helper of other denominations and of public charities; but his most conspicuous act of religious duty and Christian philanthropy was the gift of a valuable piece of ground in Washington, almost within stone's throw of the President's House—on the northeast corner of Fourteenth and G streets

* Some of the particulars of Mr. Foxall's belief, of his manners, his character, and his style of living, were communicated to me years ago by Judge James Lawrenson, who obtained his information partly from his own observation, but mainly from an intimate friend, John S. Skinner, of Baltimore, Md.

THE
CHURCH OF
THE
FUTURE



First Foundry Church, Washington, D. C. Dedicated September 10, 1815.
Built from funds donated by Henry Foxall. The picture is made after
a drawing by the late John C. Harkness, a member of the congregation.

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—and the erection thereon, at his own expense, of a substantial brick edifice, called the Foundry Chapel, wherein was accommodated continuously for thirty-five years afterwards the first Methodist congregation organized in the city of Washington west of the Capitol. This church was donated and named, tradition has it, because of Foxall's gratitude to the Almighty for the preservation of the Columbian Foundry during the occupation of the city by the British army in 1814. The motive thus assigned for the building of the church is no doubt correct; for Foxall, like most truly religious men, was no doubt disposed to look upon everything as a special providence that worked for either his moral or material good, and he could therefore see no inconsistency in the failure of God to interpose his power to protect the Capitol and the other national buildings, and the sending of the thunderstorm that saved the foundry from destruction. But as to the bestowal of the name, the biographer of Foxall says positively that the chapel was opened by Bishop Asbury, who gave it its name in commemoration of John Wesley's Foundry Chapel in London.*

On one occasion Foxall gave a jocular answer to a friend's criticism on the inconsistency of his making cannon and the founding of this church: "No doubt," said he, "you have some reason for thinking I have sinned in turning out all these grim instruments of death; but don't you think, therefore, that I should do something to save the souls of those who escape?" Seriously speaking, he really hated war. In his own life, which was free from all strife and contention,

* There seems to be a conflict between this statement and that made in a pamphlet issued in 1904 by the Foundry Church trustees, wherein it is said that the Church of 1814 was dedicated by Rev. Nicholas Snithen, former pastor of the Georgetown Methodist Church, of which Mr. Foxall was a member.

he illustrated his love of peace; and he ardently hoped that the time would come when nation would not battle with nation any more. But as a man of strong common sense he knew that in the state of society then existing war would almost inevitably sometimes occur, and that the American people, to preserve their independence and maintain their rights and their self-respect, should keep themselves prepared for it. He believed that when a man is to start out on a journey through a place of danger, he should arm himself, at least, with a stout cudgel, not for the purpose of attacking other people, but to protect himself from attack.

The building thus given by Foxall in 1814 was changed in 1848 to a larger one of somewhat more modern style on the same site, which was torn down in 1864 in order to erect in its place a still handsomer structure. This in its turn was sold and demolished in 1902, to make way for the large office building now known as the Colorado. The congregation then established itself temporarily in other quarters, and finally in 1904, it settled in and now occupies a new and beautiful stone edifice on the southwest corner of Sixteenth and Madison Streets, which is one of the most notable and convenient church buildings in Washington. This costly edifice may be properly regarded as the gift of Mr. Foxall, the money used in its erection having been realized out of the increased value of the ground given by him in 1814. Very different is this palatial pile from the modest brick meeting-house erected by Mr. Foxall; but the true spirit of Christianity in its simplicity still exists in this new church, as it did in his day. I am told that the members cherish yet a feeling of love and gratitude for their early benefactor, and that in many ways they endeavor to keep his



REMODELED FIRST FOUNDRY CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Completed in 1849. Picture is after architect's drawing.

memory green. Evidently, after the beautiful idea of some fine writer, who truly says, "Our dead are never dead to us until they are forgotten," these people intend that he shall live always; for in addition to his enshrinement in their hearts, they have placed in the vestibule of their church an enduring bronze tablet on which is recorded an expression of their appreciation of his brotherly munificence.

He gave liberally also to the Wesleyans of England, and by his will he bequeathed \$5,000 to their foreign missionary society. Notwithstanding this instance of his generosity, however, it should be recorded that he loved most to do good to missions and charities and other church work *at home*. The great faculty of his practical mind was not to see dimly what lay at a distance, but to *do* what was clearly at hand. He realized, in other words, that in his own modest quest for the Holy Grail he was not to find it, after the manner of Sir Galahad, by wandering into other lands, or by furnishing to others the means of doing so for him; he knew, as Sir Launfal finally came to know, that by proper effort and with the right spirit, he could find this inestimable treasure right at his own gate.

The further disposition of his property by will also shows his sense of justice and liberality. He provided a double home, in the city and in the country, for his wife, and settled upon her for life, in addition, a fund that would provide her with an annual income of over \$2,200; he made provision for the support, education, and permanent estate of such children as he might have by her; he gave to his nephew, Henry Foxall, son of his late brother Joseph, of Kettley Iron Works, Shropshire, England, one thousand dollars, and the same amount to his niece, Ann Burton, daughter of his deceased sister, Mary Jordan, of Birmingham, and to his

friend, Miss Naney Baker, of Baltimore, Maryland. He also gave \$5,000 to the charter fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and to the Methodist Church in Georgetown a lot of ground on Montgomery Street, 30 by 120 feet, together with the dwelling-house thereon, to serve always as a parsonage. To his five executors he left \$500 apiece, and bestowed all the residue of his property on certain trustees for the benefit of his daughter by his first marriage, Mary Ann, wife of Samuel McKenney.

Of the two wives of Mr. Foxall little is known, but we may reasonably assume that they were both good women. Certainly his first wife, his helpmeet in the struggles of his early manhood, made him a happy and beautiful home. By her he had five children, three of whom—a son and two daughters—died abroad in infancy. The other two were brought to America—John, who became blind in his early childhood, born in Ireland, August 16, 1786, died in Georgetown January 25, 1809—and Mary Ann, born in Ireland, September 20, 1791, who married, as we have seen, Samuel McKenney, a merchant of Georgetown, and who died in Georgetown August 23, 1856. By his second wife Mr. Foxall had no offspring. Of Mrs. McKenney's eight children, one daughter died in infancy, and her three sons died unmarried. Of her daughters, the eldest married Wm. McKenney Osborn, her cousin, by whom she had nine children, four of whom only are now living, viz., Mrs. Mary H. Shoemaker, widow of George Shoemaker, with children and grandchildren; Wm. McKenney Osborn, Jr.; and Miss Sarah Osborn.

The next daughter of Mrs. McKenney, Sarah, married Philip T. Berry, by whom she had six children, only two of whom are now alive, viz., Miss Margaret Ann Berry and Miss Marian Berry; but one of the sons,

Philip T. Berry, Jr., was married, and all of his five children and one grandchild are living.

The two remaining daughters of Mrs. McKenney, Mary and Annette Foxall McKenney, were married to Dr. Chas. H. Cragin, and had, the first wife, four children, and the second wife, two. Of these only three are now alive, Miss Mary Foxall Cragin and Chas. H. Cragin, Jr., children of the first wife, and Edith A., daughter of the second wife and widow of Lieutenant Chas. M. McCartney, of the United States Army. Mr. Chas. H. Cragin, Jr.,* married Elizabeth N. Addison in 1875, and has two children and two grandchildren. Mrs. McCartney has three children—two sons and one daughter.

Altogether there are thirty living descendants of Mr. Foxall.

As to his ancestors Mr. Foxall was evidently not very communicative: at any rate, little is now known of them beyond what is hereinbefore stated of his parents. But however honorable his descent may have been, or however far back he may have been able to trace it, he knew he could derive no credit or benefit from it, and therefore he probably cared little about the matter. No pictures or other memorials of even his parents have been handed down to his posterity; though as to that he must have felt, as nearly every successful, high-toned, self-respecting man *has* felt, that his own mirror was better than a whole gallery of ancestral portraits. Besides, whatever his progenitors might have been, he himself was without doubt entitled to the love and respect of his fellowmen, and worthy, accordingly, to be regarded as the founder of

* To Mr. Cragin, who is a well-known lawyer of Washington, and to his sister, Mrs. McCartney, the writer of this paper is indebted for much interesting and valued information.

his family. "The best gentleman," says Victor Hugo, "is he who is the son of his own deserts, and not the degenerate heir of another's virtue." In more respects than one was Mr. Foxall to be known as a gentleman: he was always considerate of other people, which is one of the most charming characteristics of the true gentleman; he was free from coarseness of thought or language, which invariably differentiates the gentleman from his opposite; and he had that serenity of mien—that freedom from undue sensitiveness and quarrelsomeness—that nearly always indicates the man of real nobility. According to the reports that have come down to us, he reminds one of the remark of Emerson: "We sometimes meet an original gentleman, who, if manners had not existed, would have invented them." He united to the most polished courtliness absolute sincerity and veracity. As Geoffrey of Monmouth says of Aurelius, "Above all things, he hated a lie." He had, moreover, such an amount of stamina or self-control as enabled him to take the initiative in all emergencies—an *aplomb* which grew out of a naturally good adjustment of his moral and physical nature, and his ability to place all his powers in obedience to his will. Madame de Stael says that the English constantly irritated Napoleon, because they had found out how to unite success with honesty. In this matter, Foxall resembled his countrymen, and he carried this spirit of honesty to its utmost limit. That is to say, whatever he undertook he did well; so that in the making of cannon, for example, he put in his best thought and the best of iron, and consequently we have the official testimony of an expert that his guns were the best that were made.

It was remarked by some people in his day that he might have succeeded in worldly matters much better

even than he did by the ownership and the use of slaves, as nearly all his friends and neighbors did. But he thought differently. He had the Englishman's dislike of slavery; and he belonged to a church which, thanks to the courage and conscience of John Wesley, condemned the holding of men in bondage. All his servants were accordingly hired, and their service honorably and liberally paid for.*

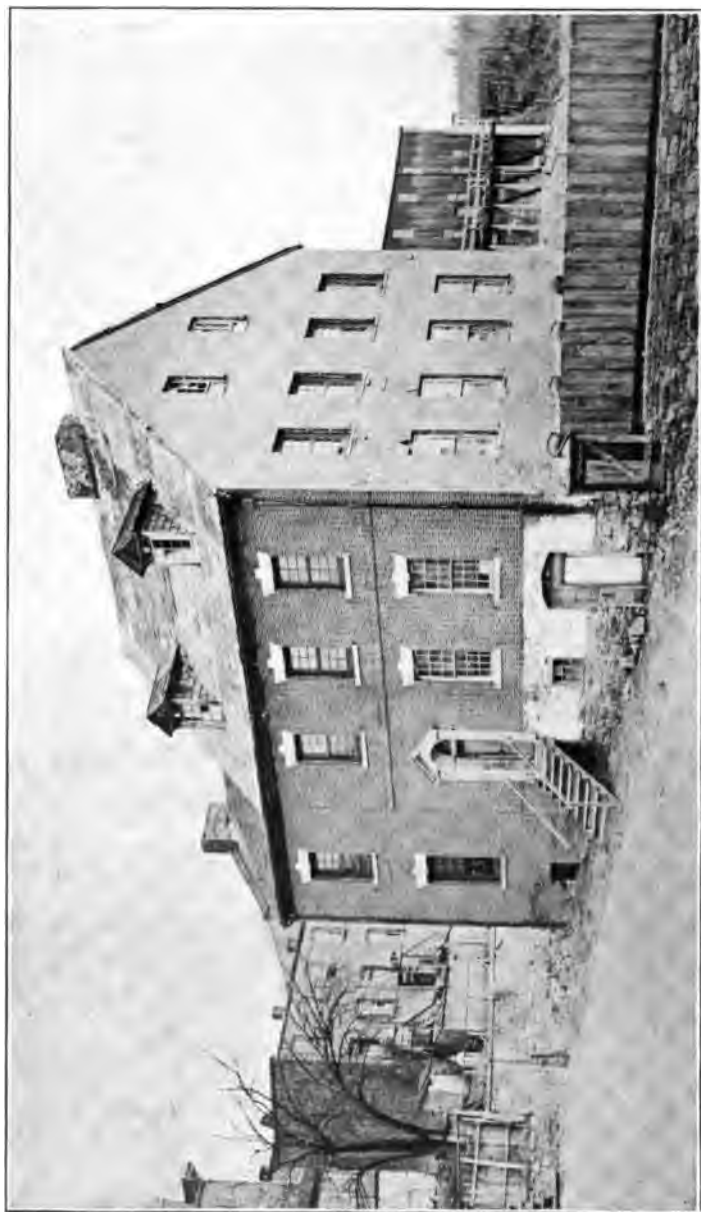
As a citizen Mr. Foxall was highly appreciated by all who knew him. He was naturalized in 1803, soon after he came to Georgetown; subsequently he became a prominent actor in many undertakings of a public nature, in addition to his foundry business. He was a director in one of the city banks; was the owner of a large bakery, the superintendency of which was intrusted to his son-in-law; was a trustee and conspicuous stockholder in the Georgetown Importing and Exporting Company—a prosperous concern that owned four or five ocean ships, and did a business with many parts of the world; was the owner of quite a number of houses and other property in Georgetown, among which was Foxall's Row; was a helper to some extent in the building up of the Capital City, being an investor in its unimproved lots; and from 1821 to 1823 he was the mayor of Georgetown, and filled the office with dignity and credit. In all his enterprises, and in every public position held by him, he seems to have been actuated by a spirit of shrewdness, progress, and philanthropy,

* Quite a different statement is made by Mr. Foxall's grandson in the paper heretofore quoted. He says that his grandfather owned slaves, but that he really hated slavery. His motive in this ownership, however, was purely humanitarian. He wished to help the negroes. He treated them with great kindness, and would never allow families to be separated. The old slaves he kept in comfort until they died; the young ones he gave useful occupation and training, and when able to shift for themselves he manumitted them.

and to have been generally beloved. He derived much of his happiness, besides the good will of his fellowmen, from activity. His course was like that of the little creek that formed part of his manufacturing plant:—not a sluggish or motionless pool, but a running stream, full of brightness and usefulness. During his whole life in Georgetown, no man was better known or better liked than he. His successful intercourse with the public men of his day is in itself a very strong testimony of his general merits; for “he who can enjoy the intimacy of the great, and on no occasion disgust them by his familiarity or disgrace them by servility, proves that he is as perfect a gentleman by nature as his companions may be by rank.”

While in Georgetown Mr. Foxall had two residences—one a country house and the other a city mansion. Both these houses are still standing. The first is in a beautiful situation—part of the original Foxall purchases—on the heights just north of the foundry, a little to the west of the astronomical observatory of Georgetown University, and having an entrance to the grounds from Foxall Road. Previously to its purchase by Foxall it was occupied by General James M. Lingan. It is said to have been a lovely spot in its early days, and must be still a delightful place of residence, overlooking as it does the city, the canal, the Virginia hills, the Aqueduct Bridge and the river for many miles distant. The title to this part of the Foxall estate, which is known as Spring Hill, has never passed out of the family. It is owned by Mr. Cragin and his sister, Mrs. McCartney, though they do not reside there.* The town-house stands on what is now called Thirty-fourth Street. It was at one time, after the building of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, used as the business head-

* It has, however, been recently sold—January 27, 1908.



CITY RESIDENCE OF HENRY FOXALL, THIRTY-FOURTH STREET, BETWEEN THE C. & O. CANAL AND WATER STREET,
GEORGETOWN, D. C.

quarters of that company. Although it is in a fair state of preservation still, it is in a very undesirable part of the city, and is a sad relic of ancient grandeur. This house when occupied by its founder presented an elegant appearance—a large and beautiful portico in front, balconies on the sides and rear, and with noticeable ornamentation. It was on a green hillside sloping down to a place on the river known as West Landing—the stream at that point being quite picturesque and unmarred by any unsightliness. The house was surrounded by beautiful gardens; and its environment—its *tout ensemble*—was inviting and aristocratic. Pictures of both houses, as well as of another, built by Foxall for his daughter, Mrs. McKenney, are here reproduced.

In person Mr. Foxall was a little below the medium height; but he was compactly built, athletic, broad-shouldered, and “firm on his pins.” His face was quite pleasing, and denoted decision of character, quick perception, and great determination. His ordinary dress was plain, of dark material and not noticeable. When he was in the pulpit, however, (for he not infrequently preached,) his dress was rather elegant, the material being rich black velvet, with white muslin neckwear, black silk stockings, low shoes and silver buckles. His idea in the matter seemed to be that an ordinary dress was unbecoming a minister of the Gospel in the exercise of his high functions.

Mr. Foxall’s will, which was probably drawn up by William Redin, an English attorney at one time prominent in Washington and Georgetown, and still remembered by many of our old citizens, is given as an appendix to this paper. As before said, it presents some features of the testator’s good sense, liberality, and fairness; and it is also an illustration—almost a curi-

osity, one might say, in this respect—of the old-time tendency of lawyers to multiply words in the framing of legal documents, and thus, in the effort to make things clear, to make them by prolixity almost ridiculously vague.

SUPPLEMENT TO ARTICLE ON FOXALL CANNON FOUNDRY.

No. 1.—Extract from Report of Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, submitted by its Chairman, Hon. Richard M. Johnson, May 12, 1836.

“There is an establishment on this site of long standing, called the Columbian Foundry, for the casting and finishing cannon and other munitions for the government before adverted to, owned by General Mason. Of it the following statement is made by General Wool and Colonel Talcott, in their report to the Secretary of War, and it is believed quite correctly: ‘The establishment offers buildings and fixtures, in a state of preparation for the annual manufacture of about three hundred heavy guns, with a corresponding number of shot, etc. The capacity of this foundry may be considerably increased by the addition of buildings and the use of water from the canal. It now operates with a small power derived exclusively from other sources, which may be preserved and used when the supply from the canal happens to be interrupted. The buildings and fixtures being now in a state for use, operations on a moderate scale may be commenced immediately.’

“The area of this site, it is understood, is of something more than seven acres, including the canal, which passes directly through it for the distance of about eight hundred feet; exclusive of the canal there are about six acres; it binds on the river, and has water deep enough for large vessels touching it for about seven hundred feet, part of which is now wharfed, and the whole extent may readily be so prepared at a moderate expense, the materials being at hand. Immediately ad-



COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF HENRY FOXALL, AT SPRING HILL, GEORGETOWN, D. C.

joining this tract, binding on its western side for its whole extent, and bordering on the river for a considerable distance, pervaded also by the canal, is a tract of land belonging to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, containing some ten or more acres, on which has been constructed waste-gates, discharging large quantities of water on the river side from the canal above the line of navigation in it, capable of use as a power to considerable extent. This tract, with the water power at the waste-gates, may be purchased if desirable.

“The committee, believing that it is not to the interest of the government to do more at this time than to establish a foundry on a moderate scale, for the purposes before adverted to, but to leave to the private foundries now engaged in its service to furnish the greater part of the supplies wanted, under the checks and regulations which, by the means proposed, it may be found expedient to adopt in its contracts with them, are of opinion that probably the area of the present site of the Columbian Foundry might be sufficient; but if thought requisite, certainly with the addition of that of the land adjoining just described, making together sixteen acres or more, exclusive of the canal that passes through them, would be of great abundance for the object contemplated.

“They have had communications from the proprietor of the Columbian Foundry, and after same modification of his terms, he has agreed to receive the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars for the whole establishment as it now stands, including as well the land and water-power from the natural stream, as all the buildings, machinery, implements, tools, etc., a description of which, furnished by him, is annexed, which is deemed by the committee, considering all its resources and advantages, a reasonable price, as they do the sum of ten thousand dollars for the hereinbefore described tract adjoining, including the water power from the waste gates, which it is understood the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company are willing to accept for it. And they recommend the purchase of the Columbian Foundry and appurtenances,

at a sum not exceeding seventy-five thousand dollars, as also, if deemed expedient by the President, of the said adjoining tract, at a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars."

No. 2.—General Description of the Buildings, Machinery, Implements, Tools, &c., at the Columbian Foundry.

"A capacious and lofty casting-house of stone, containing four large air furnaces, with double stacks; an extensive moulding-floor; deep pit for casting cannon vertically; drying-room, with iron doors, for baking gun-moulds; three powerful cranes, fitted with the requisite iron pinions, sheaves, and chains; a room for preparing moulding materials; iron railway and carriage for moving guns in and out of the drying-room; railway and carriage for transporting the same from the casting-house to the boring-mill.

"A stone building adjoining the above, containing a cupola furnace, bellows, with horizontal wheel and machinery for working it, and a casting-floor.

"Two large stone mill-houses for boring cannon, both having four floors, including the basement stories, fitted with large water-wheels, enclosed in tight water chambers to secure their continued running in time of frost, geared throughout with iron; one mill containing four frames, and the other five, for boring cannon, provided with all requisite railways, advancing carriages, racks, levers, rods, bits, and other tools for boring and turning cannon of all dimensions. Attached to the shafts of one of the water-wheels is a complete set of machinery for cutting the heavy screws and nuts of the trunnions for iron gun-carriages; and in the interior is a set of machinery for cutting large flat-threaded screws. In the same mill-house is geared, and worked by water power, machinery for turning the trunnions of guns; and three large lathes for turning gun patterns; iron shot-moulds, and other work of iron and wood, besides a foot-lathe. On the exterior, against one of the walls, is fitted a machine, with iron sheave and chains, for breaking up, by means of heavy drops, old



Residence of Mrs. Edith A. McCartney, great-granddaughter of Henry Foxall, 3123 Dumbarton Avenue. Built by Mr. Foxall as a gift to his daughter, Mrs. Mary McKenney, in Georgetown, D. C.

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cannon and other massive castings, so as to accommodate the fragments for reception and fusion in the furnace. In both boring-mills are laid, on heavy horizontal timbers extending through the houses, on the second story, and thence into the yard, iron railways and truck-carriages, for moving and hoisting cannon in and out of the boring-frame; and in both are, in the second stories, extensive carpenters' shops for preparing patterns, flasks, &c.; and garret stories for storing and preserving patterns and utensils; and basement stories for receiving, as they fall from the guns, and storing, the gun borings.

"Adjoining the upper mill-house is a frame building, used in connection with it for the purposes before mentioned.

"There are two capacious blacksmiths' or forging shops, one of stone and the other of brick; and a third, of wood, and smaller, all provided with the necessary apparatus and tools.

"There is a row of convenient sheds, divided into rooms, some closed, and some open on one side, for cleaning and storing castings, and for receiving and preparing clay and sand for the furnaces, moulding, &c.; and other sheds for laying away cannon and storing materials.

"There are two office rooms with fireplaces, one near the lower and one at the upper mill, for superintendent and clerks.

"Two brick dwelling-houses for workmen, one with four and the other with three rooms.

"Among the quantity and variety of implements, tools, &c., are:

"A swing-cart, with high and substantial wheels, with lever ratchet and chains for taking up and moving heavy cannon.

"A carriage, with four iron wheels, for moving light cannon.

"A gin and dearborn steelyards for weighing cannon, &c., &c.

"Machine, geared with iron sheave and clasp tongs, for dropping and proving shot.

"A number of cast-iron flasks, their parts secured with

wrought-iron bands, clasps, pins, &c., for moulding and casting cannon, carronades, gunades, howitzers, mortars, mortarbeds, &c., of every description, from the largest to the smallest calibre; a quantity of iron shot-moulds of all sizes; a great collection of patterns for guns of every sort; shells, grape and canister shot, &c., &c., and for wheels and machinery of all kinds.

"A large parcel of wooden flasks, iron-clasped, of various sizes and forms, for moulding and casting in green sand large and small work; and all the requisite implements and tools for carrying on the work extensively, as gauges, rods, scales, weights, blacksmiths' tools, carpenters' tools, grindstones, kettles, ladles, skimmers, sledges, crowbars, hammers, gunchisels, rubbers, spades, shovels, &c., &c."

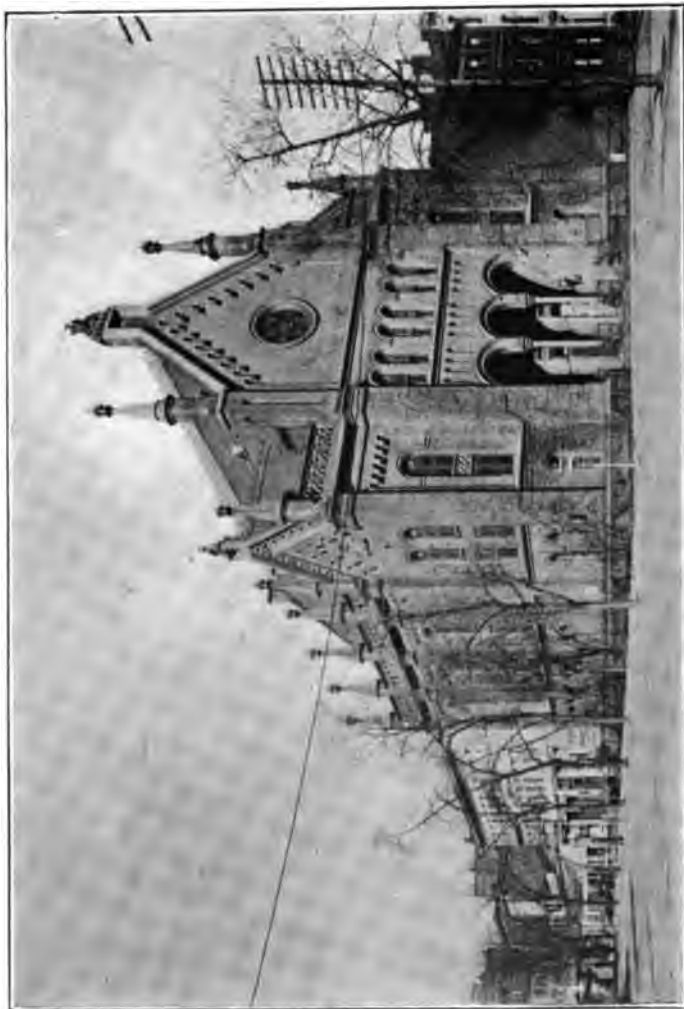
No. 3.—Last Will and Testament of Henry Foxall, of Georgetown, in the District of Columbia.

"First. I do hereby ratify and confirm in every respect the settlement made upon my marriage with my dear wife Catherine,* and do direct the provisions and trusts of the same, and the condition of the bond entered into by me upon my said marriage, to be faithfully performed and observed.

"I do further direct that if the sum of thirty-seven thousand and thirty-eight dollars, secured to be paid to the trustees of said settlement, should at any time and from time to time be found insufficient to raise within these United States, and bring into the hands of the said trustees of said settlement there, the clear annual sum of two thousand two hundred and twenty-two dollars and twenty-two cents, the annuity secured to be paid to my said wife by the said settlement, then and in such case the trustees of this my will do and shall from time to time transfer to themselves, as trustees of said settlement, out of the residuum of my estate, such sum or sums of money as may from time to time be found

* In a paper hereinbefore referred to, written by Mr. Foxall's grandson, the name of his wife is given as Margaret. This, of course, must be a mistake.

*could be
2d wife*



NEW FOUNDRY CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Fourteenth and G Streets. Dedicated November 4, 1866. From a photograph.

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necessary to make up any deficiency there may happen to be between the current amount of the interest and produce of the said principal sum, and the amount of said annuity, so as that in no event less than the said sum of \$2,222.22 shall be annually raised for my said wife or for her benefit within the United States.

“Also I give and bequeath unto my said wife the legacy or sum of \$500, to be paid to her as soon after my decease as conveniently can be, over and above the provisions made for her benefit by the said settlement, and as a provision for her support until the enjoyment of such provisions shall accrue to her.

“Also I do further give and bequeath to her the plate which shall be in my dwelling-house at the time of my decease, and which hath been or may be purchased by me during our intermarriage, for her own use absolutely, except such part thereof as is hereinafter bequeathed to my granddaughter.

“Also I give to her the use of all my servants during the remainder of their time of servitude.*

“And whereas in and by the said settlement, my dwelling-house in Georgetown is limited to my said wife in the event of her surviving me, for and during the term of her natural life or residence therein, now I do hereby authorize my said wife either to select and choose for her place of residence my farm in Washington County near Georgetown called Spring Hill, in the place and stead of my dwelling-house in Georgetown, or to continue the occupation and enjoyment of both the said residences, my dwelling-house in Georgetown as a winter and the said farm as a summer residence, the same as they have heretofore been occupied and enjoyed by myself. And in either event, I do give and devise my said farm called Spring Hill, with all the buildings, rights, and appurtenances thereto belonging, (subject to the water privileges sold to John Mason, Esquire,) unto my said wife, to be occupied and enjoyed by her in the place of my said dwelling-house in Georgetown, or with the same, and for the same term and

* This clause indicates that, as hereinbefore stated, Mr. Foxall owned no slaves, but hired his servants.

time—my desire being to promote the personal comfort of my said wife, and that the occupation by her of said residence shall be as mine has been, and that the lands, building, and appurtenances belonging to the same shall be used, managed, and enjoyed by her personally in the same manner as they have been by me for a residence and retreat merely. And if my said wife shall not choose to continue the occupation of both said residences, but shall select and choose Spring Hill in the place and stead of my dwelling-house in Georgetown, then my said dwelling-house shall form part of the residuum of my estate hereinafter devised; and if my said wife, after any such selection and choice, leave these United States and return to England, and such may possibly be her desire,) or cease to reside at my said farm called Spring Hill, then I do direct that the same shall vest in the person or persons to whom the same is hereinafter limited upon the events hereinafter expressed.

“And I do declare that my bookcase and books therein shall be considered as forming a part of the household furniture which is limited to my said wife by said settlement; and if she shall choose to continue the occupation of both said residences, I do give and bequeath to her all my furniture and other household effects in both my said residences, not included in said settlement, to be held, used, and enjoyed by her in such and the same manner and upon the same terms and for the same time as the said furniture and other household effects included in said settlement; but if my said wife shall choose Spring Hill in the place and stead of my said dwelling-house in Georgetown, then I do invest my said wife with full power to take and remove such part of my furniture and other household effects in my said dwelling-house and carry the same with her to Spring Hill, to be held and enjoyed by her in the same manner in every respect as the furniture and other household goods in my said dwelling-house; and as to such part thereof as she should not remove to Spring Hill, I do direct that the same shall sink into and form part of the residuum of my estate.

“And as to the said principal sum of \$37,038, stipulated to be raised and paid to the trustees of my marriage settlement, I do hereby give and bequeath the same and every part thereof, after the death of my said wife, unto all and every my child and children by my said wife Catherine that may be living at the time of her decease, equally to be divided between them, share and share alike if more than one, and if but one, then to such only one, to and for his and their own use and benefit. And if any or more of any such children shall happen to die during the life of my said wife, or after her death, but before the age or ages at which he, she, or they would be capable of disposing of his or their interest therein, without leaving issue surviving him or them, then I do direct that the share or shares of such child or children so dying shall go to and vest in the survivor or survivors of them, in such and the same manner as his, or her, or their share or shares; but if any such child or children should die before my said wife, or afterwards, but before the age or ages aforesaid, leaving a child or children surviving him, her, or them, then the child or children of him, her, or them so dying shall take the share or shares, portion or portions, of his, her, or their parent or parents. And in the event of a total failure of child or children by my said wife, or of the issue of any such that may happen to die, then I do direct that the said principal sum of thirty-seven thousand and thirty-eight dollars shall, after the death of my said wife, sink into and form a part of the residuum of my estate, to be paid, applied, and disposed of as hereinafter is directed in respect of the same.

“And I do hereby further direct that my child or children by my said wife, if any, shall be maintained, educated, and supported out of the residuum of my estate, and that the trustees of this my will hereinafter appointed do and shall from time to time pay and allow thereout unto my said wife, such compensation for the maintenance, education, and support of such child or children as may be just and proper; it being my will and desire that any such child or children shall reside

with my said wife wheresoever her residence may be, and shall be under her guardianship and control exclusively, and be brought up and educated by her at the cost of my estate, as aforesaid, until their respective ages, if a boy, of twenty-one, and if a girl, of eighteen.

“And if such child shall attain his or her age of twenty-one years or eighteen years in the lifetime of my said wife, then I do direct the trustees of this my will to raise out of the residuum of my estate, and pay unto such child, if a son, the annuity or yearly sum of two thousand two hundred and twenty-two dollars and twenty-two cents, and if a daughter the annuity or yearly sum of eighteen hundred dollars, by equal or half-yearly payments, to commence at the respective age aforesaid, and to continue to be paid to him or her for and during the then residue of the life of my said wife, and immediately upon her death to cease and be void, when such child would become entitled to the said principal sum of thirty-seven thousand and thirty dollars.

“And in the event of such child by my said wife being a son, then I do give and devise my said farm called Spring Hill, subject nevertheless to the provisions hereinbefore contained in relation to the same, unto and to the use of such child being a son, his heirs and assigns forever.

“Also I give and bequeath unto my nephew, Henry Foxall, son of my late brother Joseph Foxall, late of Kettley Iron Works, Shropshire, England, the sum of one thousand dollars; and to my niece, Ann Burton, widow of Henry Burton and daughter of my late sister, Mary Jordan, Lower Temple Street, Birmingham, the sum of one thousand dollars, which said legacies I direct my trustees hereinbefore named to pay to the said respective legatees thereof as soon as the same can conveniently be raised out of my estate, but without any sacrifice being made thereof or of any part thereof, to effect the payment of the same, the said legacy to the said Ann Burton to bear interest from my decease, and to sink into and form a part of the residuum of my estate if she should happen to die before the said legacy shall be raised and paid to her as aforesaid.

“And I give and bequeath unto my friend Miss Naney Baker, at Mr. Philip Moore’s, Baltimore, the interest and annual produce of the principal sum of one thousand dollars, for her life, to be paid to her by half-yearly payments.

“Also I give and bequeath unto the trustees of the charter fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia the sum of five thousand dollars.

“Also I give and bequeath unto the Methodist Missionary Society, City Road Chapel, London, the sum of five thousand dollars.

“And I do direct that my trustees do and shall pay the said two legacies last mentioned, either in the whole or in part, as soon after my death as conveniently can be, regard being had to what is my especial desire, that no part of my property may be exposed to sacrifice in order to accomplish the raising and payment of said legacies or either of them. And in the meantime, and until the whole of both of said legacies shall be fully paid, I do further direct that interest thereon, or upon such part thereof as may from time to time remain due and unpaid, shall be annually paid from the day of my death to the said trustees and the said society. And I do recommend the payment of said legacy to the Methodist Missionary Society to be made to or to the order of the said society within these United States, or in such other manner so that the payment of the legacy duty imposed by the laws of Great Britain may be saved and avoided.

“Also I give and devise unto the trustees for the time being of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgetown, and their successors forever, a lot of ground situate in Georgetown aforesaid, fronting 30 feet on Montgomery Street, and running back 120 feet, and adjoining the Methodist church, with the dwelling-house and improvements thereunto belonging, to be held by them in trust for and for the use and benefit of the resident Methodist minister in Georgetown and as a place of residence for him. And it is my particular request and desire, and I do hereby request and authorize and direct my trustees hereinafter named, and my heirs, to make and exe-

cute all proper and reasonable deeds, assignments, and conveyances to cure any defect in law there may be in the above bequests, so that the several and respective devises and bequests for religious, charitable, and benevolent purposes above mentioned may be fairly, fully, and conscientiously applied to those purposes respectively, according to the plain understanding, meaning, and intent thereof.

“And if I shall leave no son living at the time of my death by my said wife, or born in due time afterwards, and subject to the power of selection and choice hereinbefore contained to and in favor of my said wife, I do give and devise, in the event of the failure of such issue, and from and after the death of my said wife, or her ceasing personally to occupy the same, or from and immediately after my own death, if my said wife shall not choose to occupy the same as aforesaid, my said farm called Spring Hill, together with all the buildings, improvements, rights, and appurtenances thereto belonging, unto my friends Jacob Hoffman, of Alexandria, in the district aforesaid, David English, Walter Smith, and Leonard Mackall, all of Georgetown aforesaid, and their heirs, upon the trusts following, that is to say, in trust for my daughter Mary Ann McKenney, the wife of Samuel McKenney, of Georgetown aforesaid, for and during the term of her natural life, and to permit her and her family to reside at the said farm for the term aforesaid, if she should choose the same for a place of residence; and if she should prefer having the same let, then that my said trustees or trustee do and shall from time to time let the said farm, and receive the rents, issues, and profits thereof unto their or his own hands or hand, and pay and apply the same, as received from time to time, unto my said daughter Mary Ann McKenney, for her life as aforesaid, for her sole and separate use, exclusive of the control of her husband, and not subject or liable to his debts or engagements in any manner howsoever. And I do declare that the receipt of my said daughter only shall be a discharge to my said trustees or trustee for the rent from time to time of the said farm called Spring Hill. And from and immediately

after the decease of my said daughter, I do declare that my trustees or trustee do and shall stand seized of and in the said farm, in trust for my grandson, Henry Foxall McKenney, the eldest son of my said daughter, his heirs and assigns forever, to whom I do give and devise the same accordingly, to be taken and enjoyed by him for his own exclusive benefit over and above the provisions hereinafter made for him as one of the children of my said daughter.

“Also I do give and bequeath, over and above the provisions hereinafter made for my granddaughter Margaret Ann Foxall McKenney, unto and for her own use, such part of my family plate as is marked with the initials ‘H. M. F.’, and also two large silver cans or jugs not bearing that mark.

“And, subject to the several devises and bequests hereinbefore contained, and to the contingencies and events upon which the possession and enjoyment of any part of my property hereinafter mentioned are to accrue and arise, and as the same shall lapse, fall into, and determine, I do give, devise, and bequeath unto the said Joseph Hoffman, David English, Walter Smith, and Leonard Mackall, their heirs, executors, and administrators, (subject as aforesaid,) all my property and estate, whether real, personal, or mixed, and whether in possession, reversion, remainder, or expectancy, both at law and in equity, and of what kind soever and wheresoever situate, together with all and every the sum and sums of money and hereditaments hereinbefore mentioned, as the same may from time to time, and upon the events hereinbefore expressed, fall into and become part of the residuum of my estate. To have, hold, receive, and take the same, and every of them and every part thereof, unto them the said Jacob Hoffman, David English, Walter Smith, and Leonard Mackall, their heirs, executors, and administrators, according to the nature of the same property and estate respectively, in trust that they, the said Jacob Hoffman, David English, Walter Smith, and Leonard Mackall, and the survivors or survivor of them, and the heirs, executors, and administrators of such survivor, until the new trustees or trustee hereinafter directed

to be appointed shall be appointed from time to time, do and shall during the life of my said daughter, Mary Ann McKenney, and until her youngest child by the said Samuel McKenney shall attain his or her age of 21 years if my said daughter should happen to die before that event should take place, receive the rents, issues, and profits of the said real estate, and the interest, dividends, and proceeds of the said personal estate, and collect and get in the several sums of money due to me on mortgage or otherwise, and after paying the several charges hereinbefore mentioned, as the same may arise and become payable, and all reasonable expenses and costs, from time to time, do and shall invest such rents, interest, dividends, and moneys from time to time, as the same shall be received and got in, in the purchase of public stock or securities or other stock, or to loan the same out at interest on mortgage, or to apply the same or any part thereof to the improvement of the said real estate, belonging to the said trust fund, as they may judge best for the interest and advantage of the said trust fund; and with power for my trustees for the time being to sell and dispose of all or any part of the said real estate belonging to the said trust fund at any time and from time to time as they may judge best and most to the advantage of my estate, and to make and execute conveyances to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, or of any part thereof, and to give receipt or receipts for the purchase money or moneys for the same, so as that the said purchaser or purchasers should not be liable to see to the application or answerable or accountable for the misapplication or non-application of the purchase money or moneys so paid by him, her, or them; and to invest or employ the moneys to arise from such sale or sales, and the interest and produce thereof from time to time, in such manner as is hereinbefore directed in regard to the annual rents, dividends, and interest of my said estate, real and personal, and the moneys and debts so to be got in and collected upon my death, as aforesaid; and to sell the stock which may from time to time be in their hands, and to reinvest the produce thereof from time to time in improve-

ments as aforesaid, or in other stock, public or private, or in public or private securities, as aforesaid, and to change all and every the same security or securities, from time to time, and generally to manage said trust fund as they shall deem most for the advantage and interest of the same. Nevertheless, with power for my said trustees from time to time during the life of my said daughter, Mary Ann McKenney, and in the event of her death before her youngest child by the said Samuel McKenney shall have attained his or her age of 21 years, during the minority of her said child or children, if the situation and condition in life of my said daughter and her children should be such as to require it, but not otherwise, to pay my said daughter, for her sole and separate use, exclusive of the control of her husband, and not subject or liable in any way to his debts or engagements, and in the event of her death, as aforesaid, to apply for the benefit of her said child or children, being minors as aforesaid, such sum or sums of money, out of the said annual rents, interest, or dividends, (and, subject to the charges hereinbefore made thereon, the whole thereof if they the said trustees should think it requisite,) as the necessities as aforesaid of my said daughter and her children, in the opinion of my said trustees, may require for their maintenance, education, and support; but in no case for such purpose shall the principal of the said trust fund be diminished. And upon further trust that they my said trustees do and shall upon the death of my said daughter, Mary Ann McKenney, if her youngest child by the said Samuel McKenney shall then have attained his or her age of twenty-one years, or as soon after my said daughter's death as her said youngest child shall attain that age, divide and distribute, (subject always to the charges hereinbefore made thereon and which in the events hereinbefore contemplated and expressed may accrue and arise, and if the same shall or may arise, my said trustees always retaining sufficient of the said trust funds to meet the same charges,) the said trust funds real, personal, and mixed, which shall be in their hands and of which they shall stand seized, unto, between, and amongst

the children of the said Mary Ann McKenney by the said Samuel McKenney, as well those living at the time of my death as those also which may be born afterwards, their heirs, executors, and administrators, share and share alike, as tenants in common and not as joint tenants, and do and shall convey and assign the same to them accordingly, if more than one, and if but one, then the whole thereof to such one; and if any of the children of the said Mary Ann McKenney shall die previous to such division and distribution thereof without leaving a child or children surviving him or them, then my will is, that the survivor or survivors of them do and shall take the share or shares of him, her, or them so dying, in the same manner as his or her or their original share or shares; but if any such child or children of my said daughter shall die before the division and distribution aforesaid leaving a child or children, then my will and desire is that the child or children of such child or children so dying shall take his, her, or their parent or parents' share or portion equally amongst them, if more than one; with further power, nevertheless, for my said trustees, if any of the children of my said daughter should come of age or be married or should enter into business previous to such division and distribution as aforesaid, to advance to such child or children such part of their share or portion of the said trust funds (subject as aforesaid) as my said trustees may deem prudent and expedient, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. And if it shall happen that the said Samuel McKenney shall die before my said daughter, and that she should marry again and have a child or children by and after taking husband, then I do hereby declare that any such child or children shall be placed and stand upon an equal footing in interest in every respect in the distribution and enjoyment of my property and estate with the child and children of my said daughter by the said Samuel McKenney; but my will is, and I do hereby direct, that the distribution of my said property and estate shall notwithstanding take place at the period hereinbefore named, that is, on the death of my said daughter,

and when her youngest child by the said Samuel McKenney shall have attained his or her age of 21 years. And if at that period the several contingencies and events upon which my said property and estate are to become chargeable shall not have happened and become determined, then that my said trustees do and shall as the same shall happen, and as the said trust funds which they are hereby authorized to retain to meet the same shall lapse and fall in, divide and distribute the same from time to time, in manner hereinbefore expressed, amongst the several children of my said daughter, Mary Ann McKenney, hereinbefore named.

“And whereas I am now carrying on a baking business in Georgetown under the care and superintendence of my said son-in-law, Samuel McKenney, who accounts to me for all moneys and property employed therein, and the profits thereof, and receives a stated salary for his services and care, now I do hereby declare my mind and intention to be that my said trustees do and shall in their discretion continue to carry on the said business after my death for such time as they shall think it proper and prudent, and to use and employ my property therein, under the care and superintendence of said Samuel McKenney, in the same manner as the same is now carried on by me, and superintended by him. And I do request my said trustees to cause the said Samuel McKenney statedly to account with them for all moneys and property employed in said business, and all other profits thereof, and authorize them to make him such compensation thereout for his care and trouble as to them may seem reasonable and proper. And I do further direct my said trustees, at one or more stated periods in each year, to pay and apply the whole of the profits arising from such business to and for the use and benefit of my said daughter, the wife of the said Samuel McKenney, and her family, exclusive of the control of her said husband and free from liability to his debts or engagements. And I do hereby vest in my said trustees a discretionary power to discontinue the said business at any time when they shall think proper, recommending it to my said

trustees to communicate and consult with said Samuel McKenney from time to time as to the propriety of continuing or discontinuing the said business, and of the employment of the funds and property vested therein, in any other business under his management and care, but in the same manner and for the same purpose, and the same disposition to be made of the profits as is hereinbefore expressed as to the business now carried on and directed to be continued in the discretion of my said trustees after my death.

“And I do hereby declare my will and mind to be that when and so soon as two of my said trustees above named shall happen to die, or any of them shall become incapable of acting, so that by death or incapacity their number shall be reduced to two, that then the survivors of them, or if more than two shall happen to die or become incapable, the survivor of their or his heirs, executors, or administrators, shall and do forthwith convey and assign all the said trust funds remaining in their or his hands, and all their or his estate or interest therein, to two or more trustees to be nominated by such survivors or survivor, in such manner so that the legal estate thereof may be vested in such survivor or survivors, and the person who shall be nominated as aforesaid, upon the trusts aforesaid, and so from time to time, and as often as the present or any succeeding trustees shall be reduced by death or incapacity to two or one, as the case may happen to be, to the end that the legal estate and the said trust fund, and the trusts and purposes hereinbefore declared concerning the same, may be preserved and kept alive.

“And I do particularly recommend it to my said trustees for the time being to effect an insurance from fire upon such part of the said trust fund as may be liable to destruction from fire, immediately after my decease, and to continue the same until the said property should become changed and converted by sale or sales into property not liable to such destruction, or up to the period of the division and distribution aforesaid.

“And I do hereby further declare my will and mind to be

that if from any cause my property should at the time of my death have depreciated in value from what may at the date hereof be deemed its just value, such depreciation shall operate equally upon all the legatees, specific, general, and residuary, of this my will, (my said wife and any child or children I may have by her excepted,) so as that they shall all bear an equal proportion of such depreciation in value, according to the amount or amounts of their said several and respective legacies or shares.

“And I do hereby direct my said trustees to retain, out of the said trust moneys, the sum of \$500 each, as a testimony of my esteem and friendship; and I do accordingly give to each of them, the said Jacob Hoffman, David English, Walter Smith, and Leonard Mackall, the said legacy of \$500 for his own use.

“And I do hereby further declare that my said trustees for the time being shall and lawfully may from time to time deduct or retain, out of the moneys which shall come to their hands, under the trusts of this my will, all such costs, charges, damages, and expenses as they may pay, expend, sustain, or be put to by reason of or in execution of the trusts hereby declared and created; and also that they shall not be charged or chargeable with or accountable for more money, stock, interest, dividends, rents, and effects than they respectively shall actually receive by virtue of this my will, nor shall the one of them be answerable or chargeable for or with the act, payment, receipt, or default of the other of them, but each of them for himself and his own act, receipt, payment, and default only; and in case any loss shall happen to the said trust money, securities, or stocks, or the interests or dividends thereof, without the wilful default or neglect of the said trustees or any of them respectively, then they the said trustees or any of them, their or any of their heirs, executors, or administrators, shall not be charged or chargeable with or liable to answer or make satisfaction for such loss or any part thereof, and in case such loss shall happen by or through the wilful neglect or default of any of the said trustees, then he

or they only by whose default or neglect it shall happen shall be answerable for the same.

"And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my said son-in-law, Samuel McKenney, and the said Jacob Hoffman, David English, Walter Smith, and Leonard Mackall, executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former will or wills by me at any time heretofore made.

"In witness whereof, I the said Henry Foxall have hereunto set my hand and seal this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three.

"HENRY FOXALL. (Seal.)

"Signed, sealed, published, and declared by the said Henry Foxall as and for his last will and testament, written upon thirteen pages, and his initials and ours affixed to each of the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh pages, in the presence of us whose names are hereunto subscribed, who at his request, in his presence and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto, the words 'my said son-in-law Samuel McKenney and,' above interlined between the fifteenth and sixteenth lines, being previously interlined.

"THOS. C. WRIGHT.

"JNO. LITTLE.

"W. REDIN."

Admitted to probate March, 1824.

THE ARCHIVES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

By WALDO G. LELAND.

(Read before the Society, March 11, 1907.)

In its broadest sense the term "archives of the federal government" may be used to designate that vast body of documents, printed or in manuscript, constituted by the records and files of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the national government. Not only are the records of those offices located at the seat of government included in the federal archives, but also the records of all local offices administered by the national government, no matter where they may be situated. Thus the records of all post-offices, customs-houses, sub-treasuries, mints, land offices, army posts, navy yards, federal courts, quarantine and immigrant stations, weather bureaus, and internal revenue offices, to mention the more important of the local branches of the various governmental departments, are quite as properly a part of the federal archives as are the collection of original treaties with foreign powers or the volumes of diplomatic correspondence so carefully preserved in the Department of State. Among the federal archives are included, as has been suggested, documents in print as well as those which are still to be found only in manuscript. Thus the Statutes at Large, the Congressional Record, the annual reports, with their accompanying documents, of the heads of the executive departments, together with that great mass of material, infinitely varied in value, at once the hope and the despair of the investigator,

known as the Congressional Documents, belong as truly among the archives as do any of the volumes or boxes of manuscripts. Indeed, owing to their rarity, many published documents have nearly the character of manuscripts, as for example the valuable but little known series of Bills and Resolutions, of which I believe not a single complete set is to be found, or the documents of the first fourteen Congresses, a complete series of which has at last, after long continued efforts been collected by the Library of Congress. It is evident that even a brief survey of the field thus indicated would extend much beyond the limits of a paper appropriate in length to the present occasion. I propose then to deal this evening only with the manuscript records of those offices of the executive departments of the national government that are situated within the District of Columbia. It is with regret that I thus exclude from present consideration the extremely interesting but almost unknown archives, still unprinted, of the Senate and House of Representatives, the records of the Supreme Court and Court of Claims, the few groups of papers in the Smithsonian Institution, and the increasingly important collections of the Library of Congress. The importance of the records and files of the executive departments, the comparative difficulty of investigation in them, owing to the multiplicity of depositories, and the problems in archive administration that they present, all combine however to justify the limited construction that I propose to give to my subject, "The Archives of the Federal Government." Let us first then consider the general situation as regards the archives of the executive departments, their history and administration, passing later to a more particular consideration, especially as regards historical utility, of the records of the more im-

portant offices and bureaus of each of the departments.

In the first place we are impressed with the fact that there is no general body of archives, no central depository, no Public Record Office, no Archives Nationales. Instead, each department administers its own records, and within each department it is the general rule that the various bureaus preserve their own archives; nor does the subdivision end here, unfortunately, for in many bureaus the various divisions, sections or other offices that constitute the bureau have each their own file rooms. Thus it results that the archives of the executive departments are to be found scattered among something over a hundred depositories. Such a situation would be sufficiently discouraging to the investigator, had each office that thus preserves its own records enjoyed a continued existence from the organization of the government, or performed always the same duties. Such, however, is far from being the case. Duties have been transferred from one department to another, or from one office to another within the same department, old offices have been abolished, new ones created, in short the entire organization of the government has been in a nearly constant state of change and development since 1789. If it becomes difficult, then, to trace the history of the administration of any particular function, it is frequently far more difficult to locate the records of that administration. In theory and in law they have followed the function about from office to office, from department to department, but in practice it has too often happened that a disregard of their value has caused them to be overlooked or forgotten.

The administration of the records is no more uniform, among these multiple depositories, than would be expected after a consideration of the circumstances that have just been set forth. Of general regulation

by statute little more has been done than to prohibit the removal of documents from their respective depositories, to provide for the destruction of so-called "useless papers," and more recently to authorize the transfer to the Library of Congress of such material as, having purely historical value, is no longer useful in the transaction of public business.

Regulation by departmental or executive orders has gone somewhat farther but has been mainly concerned with methods of preparing the records, the quality of ink or paper, and the system of indexing and filing the documents. Such regulations are of first importance, but they apply, not to the vast accumulations of the past, but to the records and files of the future; so that they concern the investigator of the present day only as he looks with unenvious joy over the promised land which is reserved for the occupation of the unborn generations. Except in one or two noteworthy cases, which will be dwelt on later, departmental regulation has not had in view the securing of an orderly, well arranged body of historical archives, which should include the earliest records and which should be accessible for legitimate purposes of investigation.

Efforts have not, however, been lacking to secure a general and adequate administration of the archives. The establishment of a Hall of Records has been urgently recommended, both by heads of executive departments and by committees of Congress, at frequent intervals since 1879. In 1887, an ex-officio commission was directed to prepare a report on the archives with especial reference to such of them as should be published, but it does not appear that this commission ever came together, thus demonstrating the futility of any ex-officio attempts to deal with the problem.* In 1900,

* Senate document, 236; 57 Congress, 1 session.

identical bills were introduced in the Senate and in the House calling upon the American Historical Association to investigate the character and condition of the public records of the United States, and to report to Congress the results of such investigation.* The bill passed the Senate but in the House, although favorably reported by the Committee on the Library, shared the fate of much other worthy legislation and was lost at the end of the session. The report of the committee, to which reference has just been made, is, however, well worth our attention.†

“A cursory examination of the condition of the national archives at Washington,” so the report reads, “has convinced your committee that the improvement of the conditions which have for a long time prevailed ought no longer to be delayed. Documents of the utmost legal importance, affecting personal and governmental interests of great magnitude, are scattered about among the different Executive Departments and bureaus, and are often stored under conditions which not only make access to them difficult, but also open the way to the mutilation or loss of the documents themselves. With the exception of the military and naval records, no sufficient provision has yet been made by law for preserving this material or for making it accessible to those having a right to use it. Moreover, records relating to the same general subject are in some cases divided between two or more custodians, while important portions of valuable papers are not infrequently found to have disappeared altogether, or to be in the possession of some individual or society in another part of the country. Where one would naturally expect system and unity, there too often prevails,

* House bill, 11,429; 56 Congress, 1 session.

† House report, 1,767; 56 Congress, 1 session.

as there has long prevailed, much diversity. Your committee feel that they do not state the case too strongly in saying that at present no lawyer or historical student desiring to consult the archives of the National Government can feel in advance any assurance that the papers to which he wishes access are to be found in the place in Washington where they would naturally be supposed to be, or even that they are actually in the possession of the United States at all. Only by long and detailed correspondence, or by coming to the national capital and making the rounds of the different departments and depositories can the material in question commonly be got at; and even after this expenditure of time and money and labor the documents sought may turn out to have been lost, or the custody of them vested in somebody else."

The committee then proceeds to dwell upon the "impairment, loss or dispersion of the national records" indicating the unsuitable, even unsafe accommodations too often afforded them, a matter of which I propose presently to speak more fully, and continues, "there can be no need of argument to show that the legal and historical papers of the United States should no longer be scattered about a number of bureaus which for the time being happen to have the custody of them, or held under conditions which make possible impairment or loss, and made available for use only to such extent as the courtesy of the custodians, unaided by suitable appropriations, succeed in achieving. There should certainly be some place at the national capital where the records of the national government can assuredly be found, where they can be dealt with in a manner befitting their inestimable importance, and where those who have occasion to consult them can be provided with suitable facilities and be assured that

they have before them all the material that there is on the particular subject in hand."

It remained for private enterprise to take the first logical step towards the proper treatment of the archives as a body of historical material, namely the preparation of an inventory of them. In the report of the Advisory Committee on History* made in 1902 to the then newly established Carnegie Institution of Washington the recommendation was made that, "first of all, in logical order, should be executed a comprehensive and detailed examination of the government archives, resulting in the preparation of a monumental report upon the vast store of manuscript materials for American history, now preserved in Washington." By way of beginning the preparation of such a report a preliminary survey was undertaken by the Carnegie Institution, the result of which was published in a volume bearing the title of "Guide to the Archives of the Federal Government at Washington."† Thus while the problem of the investigator is somewhat simplified by the existence of the "Guide," the general archive situation remains practically unchanged except in two respects: the Library of Congress has received from some of the departments considerable bodies of material of especial historical value, and in the Department of War the historical records have been placed under a single administration.

Reference has already been made to the dangers to

* The report of this committee, which consisted of Messrs. J. F. Jameson, C. F. Adams and A. C. McLaughlin, is printed in Year Book No. 1 of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1902.

† This volume, which was commenced under the general guidance of Mr. Worthington C. Ford, was completed by the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, and published in 1904 as Publication No. 14 of the Carnegie Institution. A revised and considerably enlarged edition is being issued (1908) as Carnegie Institution Publication No. 92.

which the records are exposed in many of the depositories. This is due, not to lack of care or industry on the part of the individual custodians, but entirely to the failure of Congress, in spite of continued urgings and repeated warnings, to provide proper accommodations for the archives. When we reflect that in 1800 most of the records of the War and Navy Departments were destroyed by fire, that in 1833 the same fate befell the records of the Treasury Department, that during the Civil War the archives of the House and Senate were accounted as of no value in the efforts to secure barracks for soldiers in the Capitol, and that in 1877 the Patent Office was destroyed by fire, it does not seem unreasonable to feel both regret and surprise that a neglect which has been in the past attended by such disastrous results, should be persisted in. It becomes evident to the most casual observer that without special accommodations it will continue to be impossible for the archives to receive proper treatment, no matter how great may be the zeal of departmental officials. When it is realized that the public buildings do not begin to afford sufficient space for the official force, it is not surprising that the records have been stored in garrets and cellars, in corridors and storage buildings; in short, in all places where it is clearly impossible to store the clerks themselves. Thus it is that while some records are shrunk with cold in the winter and shrivelled with heat in the summer, others receive the drippings of steam pipes, or collect a rich store of mould or dust which must be removed before binders' titles can be deciphered. It is, of course, understood that by no means all of the archives are thus exposed, nor even a considerable portion, relatively speaking; but it is enough to know that such conditions exist, and that, as the crowding becomes annually greater, large bodies of

material, as yet safely cared for, must eventually be endangered when they are no longer required in the transaction of current business. Another danger, made infinitely greater by the lack of accommodations is that owing to imperative needs for more space, documents will be destroyed as "useless," which have historical value, although no longer needed for official purposes. It does not appear that as yet there have been any serious losses due to authorized destructions, but the narrow escape some years ago of the original census schedules and of a great mass of Confederate material, gives warning that the danger is real and does not exist merely in the imaginings of over-sensitive historians.

Enough, however, has been said respecting the general archive situation and its need of betterment. If too much time appears to have been devoted to their consideration, let me plead, by way of justification, the immediate practical importance of this phase of my subject, and let me observe that it would seem to be especially fitting to emphasize this importance before this Society.

Turning now to the consideration of the archives of the executive branch of the government, regarded as historical sources, we naturally give first attention to the records of the President's office. It has been the custom of all the Presidents upon retiring from office to take with them the papers and records that have accumulated during their respective administrations. The single exception to this practice, an exception which was doubtless accidental, has left in the White House two letter books covering the years 1869 to 1875 of Grant's administrations. The letters in these volumes are not, however, of first importance. They relate to nominations, appointments and resignations, to invitations to attend public functions, and to purely personal matters, such as the purchase of cigars and horses, or

the care of Grant's country estate. In this connection a word respecting the papers of other Presidents may not be inappropriate. Those of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Johnson have been purchased at various times by the government and are now in the Library of Congress. The papers of Jackson were presented to the Library of Congress, which has also acquired many Van Buren and Polk papers. The papers of the Adamses are still in the possession of the Adams family and are deposited with the Massachusetts Historical Society, while the Buchanan papers belong to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and a large section of Polk's papers are in the library of the Chicago Historical Society. It is unfortunate that the nation should not be the possessor of so important a source for the study of its history, without being obliged to purchase or to wait upon the generosity of public-spirited heirs.

The archives of the Department of State have been remarkably well preserved since the organization of that department. They are contained mainly in two depositories, the Bureau of Indexes and Archives and the Bureau of Rolls and Library. In the former are filed the regular series of letters received and sent, while in the latter are more special collections of documents. Unfortunately the line of demarcation is not always sufficiently distinct, and it is frequently found that documents of the same class are divided between the two bureaus without there existing any reason for such a division. In general, however, the diplomatic and consular correspondence and the correspondence of the Secretary of State with government officials and with private persons is filed in the Bureau of Indexes and Archives. This correspondence is arranged in eight principal series. The diplomatic and consular letters

are each in four series: Instructions, or letters to agents abroad; Despatches, or letters from agents abroad; Notes to the Department, being letters from foreign agents in the United States, and Notes from the Department, being letters to foreign agents within the United States. The amount of this material is very considerable, there being about three thousand volumes each of the diplomatic and consular correspondence. Until August, 1906, it was arranged by diplomatic and consular posts, which would seem to be the logical and proper arrangement. This system has since, however, been modified so as to render the current material more readily usable in the course of official business. A very small portion, comparatively speaking, of this material has been printed, it having been found during the course of a detailed examination that only one fourth of the diplomatic correspondence prior to 1828, and that by no means inclusive of nearly all the more important documents, was printed in the series known as *American State Papers*.* The two other principal series in the Bureau of Indexes and Archives are known as *Domestic Letters* and *Miscellaneous Letters*, and fill about fifteen hundred volumes. They contain the correspondence of the Department of State with other than diplomatic and consular officials, the former series being that of the letters sent, the latter, that of the letters received. Here is to be found correspondence with state and territorial governors, with district attorneys, with cabinet officers and with private individuals. In the correspondence with the Department of War will be found, for example, material bearing on the difficulties with Great Britain respecting the northern frontier,

* See A. C. McLaughlin, "Report on the Diplomatic Archives of the Department of State, 1789-1840." Carnegie Institution Publication, No. 22.

or later, letters relating to the government of the insular possessions. Correspondence with the Department of the Navy relates to the suppression of the slave trade, to police service in Asiatic waters, and to many other matters coming within the jurisdiction of both the naval and diplomatic branches of the government. Unfortunately the volumes of letters sent covering the years 1799 to 1802 are missing. In addition to the regular series just described there is preserved in the Bureau of Indexes and Archives a vast amount of very miscellaneous material filling many volumes and bundles, some of which is similar to that preserved in the Bureau of Rolls and Library. Among much that is valueless are found documents of considerable interest, as, for example, several bundles and volumes of papers relating to the domestic secret service during the Civil War, or again a bundle of old cipher codes which may prove of assistance to some future editor of the early diplomatic correspondence.

In the Bureau of Rolls and Library, the other principal depository of the Department of State, are several definite groups of papers and a large body of miscellaneous material. There are regularly filed in this bureau the original laws of the United States, the original treaties with foreign states and with tribes of Indians, letters of ceremony from foreign governments, and the proceedings and other papers of commissions established for the arbitration of international disputes (although by some chance or other much material of this last class happens to have found its way into the Bureau of Indexes and Archives). Here also are preserved such parts of the Washington, Continental Congress and Franklin papers as relate to foreign relations (the balance of those collections, formerly here, having been removed to the Library of Congress) and

the papers prior to about 1870 relating to the administration of the territories. This last collection is of especial interest both from the point of view of the student of territorial administration and from that of the local historian. It includes the proceedings of territorial executives and legislatures, territorial laws and a vast amount of correspondence with territorial governors and secretaries. It contains much material relating to the transfer of the Louisiana Territory, to the establishment of a government therein, to the beginnings of government in the Northwest Territory, to the operations of the War of 1812 in the vicinity of Detroit, and to many other similar matters. It is especially fitting on this occasion to mention the existence among the territorial papers of several volumes of documents relating to the District of Columbia and more especially to the laying out and early government of the city of Washington. Nor should the Alaskan archives, in over seventy-five volumes of Russian manuscript be omitted from our hasty survey.

A large amount of miscellaneous material entirely similar to the corresponding group in the Bureau of Indexes and Archives, relates to a great variety of matters, the execution of Spanish pirates, the arrest of a Russian consul, the South American wars of liberation, the proceedings of the United States legation in Texas from 1842 to 1844, and other subjects. Apparently it would be an advantage were the miscellaneous papers and volumes in the Bureau of Indexes and Archives to be united with the documents just noted.

Passing now to the Department of the Treasury we find a quite different state of affairs; instead of two principal depositories there are twenty or more. Of these the Division of Mail and Files of the Secretary's Office claims first attention for in it are preserved what

are known as the "Secretary's files," that is, the correspondence of the Secretary of the Treasury and the general records of the department as distinguished from the more specialized material in the several bureaus. Reference has already been made to the fire of March, 1833, by which practically all of the Secretary's correspondence was destroyed. The loss was, as may be imagined, irreparable, although in a few cases it has been possible to reconstruct the early volumes of certain series. The correspondence is in two main bodies, the letters sent and the letters received. The former are in two principal groups, those prior to, and those since July 1, 1878. The letters in the earlier group are in duplicate, both press and fair copies having been preserved; they are arranged in several series, according to the officials written to, as Letters to Congress, Letters to the Department of War, etc., or according to the subjects treated, as Customs Letters, Bank Letters, Public Lands Letters, etc. The letters in the later group are preserved only in press copies and are arranged in series corresponding to the divisions into which the Office of the Secretary is organized. The letters received are variously arranged, some being bound in volumes but most being preserved in file cases. They are much less accessible than the letters sent and it has been found necessary to store thousands of volumes and cases in a storage warehouse on E Street, principal dependence being placed for official needs upon a rather complicated register in several hundred volumes. It does not need to be said that there is here much that is interesting and valuable. It is for the most part fresh material, there having been no systematic publication of it. By way of illustration may be mentioned several volumes of communications from banks prior to 1850, among which are included hun-

dreds of charters of banks and trust companies and a voluminous correspondence bearing intimately on that period of unstable banking. Much material is also to be found relating to the Bank of the United States and its dissolution, as well as several hundred volumes devoted to the administration of the customs tariff.

But other depositories in the Department of the Treasury present just claims for brief consideration. In the Division of Book-keeping and Warrants of the Secretary's Office are kept the records of the receipts and expenditures of the government since 1789, that body of material having escaped destruction in the fire of 1833. It is as yet wholly unexplored for it was transferred a few years ago from the office of the Register and has since then, for lack of room, had to be stored in places where it is inaccessible to the investigator. In this same division are to be found the records of the Treasury Department of the Confederate government, together with the consular correspondence of the Confederate State Department and the records of the Commission to Washington, as well as a large amount of papers and records relating to captured and abandoned property in the southern States.

The Office of the Register of the Treasury, at one time the depository of most important archives, contains at present but little of historical interest outside of the "loan office records." These five hundred volumes are the records of the loan offices in the several states from 1784 to 1835, and they consist of ledgers, receipts, subscriptions to stock, statements of the stock comprising the assumed State debts, and other similar material.

The greater part of the records of the office of the Treasurer of the United States were destroyed in 1833, and it is as yet impossible to ascertain the precise char-

acter or completeness of the records from 1833 to 1868. There are several hundred bundles of letters received extending from 1791 to 1868, and a few volumes of letters sent between 1814 and the latter date. Since 1869, however, the correspondence has been carefully preserved. Of other material the office possesses an enormous mass of miscellaneous papers, accounts, check stubs, certificates of deposit, journals, ledgers, transcripts from assistant treasurers and national banks, daily reports of movements of standard silver dollars, and many other classes of documents.

In the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury is to be found a file of sixty-two volumes containing the decisions of the Second Comptroller from 1817 to 1894; when that office was abolished. Unfortunately the decisions of the First Comptroller were not preserved in any separate series although many of them have been published. Since the reorganization of the office in 1894, the decisions of the Comptroller have been published and regular files of the correspondence have been maintained.

The offices of the various Auditors contain, of course, the adjusted accounts of the executive offices. This material is mainly administrative and only the most specialized investigations in it would be at all fruitful. As may be imagined the extent of it is formidable. In the office of the Auditor for the War Department it has been estimated that the records cover over ten miles of shelving, and this showing would probably be duplicated if not bettered in any of the other auditors' offices. Amidst such a mass of material several small groups of records seem to have a more special interest or value. In the office of the Auditor for the Treasury Department, for example, are the mileage accounts of members of Congress prior to 1894, the warrants for the pay-

ments for Louisiana, Alaska and the Philippines, and a small box of expense accounts and vouchers showing Washington's travelling and table expenses between 1775 and 1784. In the office of the Auditor for the War Department are to be found rolls of friendly Indians from 1818 to 1849, disbursement accounts of Grant, Lee, Davis, Sheridan and other officers, the records of the commissions for the settlement of claims arising from losses of property in the War of 1812 or from the frauds perpetrated in the Department of the West in 1861 and 1862, together with papers relating to the capture of Jefferson Davis and much other material. The office of the Auditor for the Interior Department contains the accounts connected with the administration of the public lands dating from 1832 with a few as early as 1817, Indian accounts from 1819, and pension accounts from 1789. In the office of the Auditor for the Navy Department are many pay and muster rolls of various vessels, together with accounts and correspondence relating to prize claims. The office of the Auditor for the Post Office Department contained, until their transfer to the Library of Congress within the last year, a large number of early ledgers and, of especial interest, the records of the Confederate Post Office Department.

The archives of the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue are in two groups: those from 1790 to 1818 constitute the records of the old office of the Commissioner of the Revenue and consist of seven volumes of the Commissioner's letters, among which are some few relating to the whiskey insurrection, a number of internal revenue bonds, and three volumes of Boston tax lists. The second group of archives includes the records from 1862 to the present time. These are regarded as confidential and are not accessible.

This may complete our brief survey of the archives of the Treasury Department. A number of offices remain but the records of some of them, as those of the Comptroller of the Currency or of the Secret Service Division, are regarded as confidential, while the records of the others are of small historical value.

In the Department of War, which we may next consider, we find a situation differing widely from either of the two that have just been described. Here the policy of concentrating the archives and bringing them under a single administration has been consistently pursued and there have been gathered together in the office of the Adjutant General practically all the records of the department that are of historical or personal value. Such military records also as are to be found in other departments have been transferred to the War Department in the purpose of collecting a complete body of military archives. Not only has all of this material been deposited in the Office of the Adjutant General but considerable progress has been made in arranging and cataloguing it. Indeed, there has already been prepared a card index to all the rolls on file, so that the complete military history of any soldier can at once be ascertained. The fact that this index comprises over fifty millions of cards will convey some notion of the extent of the material. It must, however, be a matter of the keenest regret that, notwithstanding the repeated recommendations of the War Department, Congress has failed to provide the accommodations and small force necessary to place these archives at the disposal of investigators. Until this is done the practice of the Department of restricting access to the documents to employees of the Department for official purposes only, and to restrict responses to inquiries to the giving of information respecting the

military history of individual soldiers, will be continued. The richness of the material thus withheld makes the situation especially tantalizing. Here are all the records of the volunteer and regular armies, the correspondence of the Secretary of War and of military officers, a large collection, though not complete, of Revolutionary records, the captured Confederate archives, and the records of the Freedman's Bureau and of the military districts during the period of Reconstruction.

A few offices in the War Department have retained certain of their records, some of which should be noted. In the office of the Inspector General are five volumes of interesting inspection reports between 1814 and 1836. The office of the Judge Advocate General contains the original proceedings of general courts-martial, the records of the Civil War Bureau of Military Justice, which include the full proceedings of the trial of the so-called Lincoln conspirators, and all papers relating to the titles of lands under the control of the War Department, except those in the District of Columbia. Of especial interest in the office of the Chief of Engineers is a collection of about fifty thousand maps, charts, field books, diaries and similar documents. Of both local and national interest are the so-called "old records of the City of Washington," which are found in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, a branch of the City Engineer's office, and which include the proceedings and correspondence of the commissioners of public grounds and buildings of the city of Washington, commencing in 1791. The letters of L'Enfant, of Ellicott, of the two Kings, and of Washington respecting the laying out of the federal city are most interesting and I am glad to understand that this Society has undertaken the publication of the more important of them. Here are also the maps, plats, ledgers, account books

and other documents that constitute an important part of the archives of the District of Columbia. There remain to be mentioned among the archives of the Department of War only those of the Bureau of Insular Affairs. These include the records of the Philippine Insurrection, now in the course of being published, the records of the first occupation of Cuba, and an enormous amount of correspondence, accounts and other documents relating to the military government of our new possessions.

Turning now from the Department of War to that of the Navy, we find the situation as regards the use of the archives almost reversed. The naval archives are, of course, much less extensive than those of the military force branch; furthermore, because of the extremely technical character of the work of most of the bureaus in the Navy Department it results that the records easily of greatest historical value and in the majority of cases the only ones that the investigator is likely to wish to consult are those of the Secretary's Office, which are under the control of the Chief Clerk. These are well arranged in orderly series and access to them permitted with the greatest liberality. Unfortunately there are few records prior to 1800, the fire of that year having affected the Navy as well as the War Department. The files consist mainly of correspondence, letters received and letters sent, arranged in various series. In general, the letters received are the more valuable for they contain minutely detailed accounts of the operations of all our naval forces. There are in all over three thousand volumes of these letters. The largest single series is that of Officers' Letters, but it is also one of the least important, the letters relating mostly to petty or personal matters, such as furloughs, transfers, advances in pay, etc. More important are

the Masters' Letters, filling fifty volumes and extending from 1804 to 1837, which contain material relating to the Burr Conspiracy, operations on the lakes during the War of 1812, the capture of the *Frolic*, the cruise of the *Wasp*, and other matters of equal interest. A still more important series is that of Captains' Letters; while of equal value are series of letters from the various squadrons. In the letters from the African Squadron, for example, is much material bearing on the suppression of the slave trade; in those of the East Indian Squadron, on Perry's mission to Japan; in those of the Pacific Squadron, on the seizure of California; and in those of the Gulf Squadron, on Mexican and Cuban affairs. The series of letters sent correspond largely to the letters received, but are, of course, of not nearly so great an extent. A special series of papers of which mention should be made in passing relates to exploring expeditions. Here are included, for example, five volumes of letters relating to the South Sea expedition of 1836-1842, a volume on Lynch's expedition to the Dead Sea, two volumes on Rodgers's surveying expedition to the North Pacific, and the ship and ice journals of DeLong, in command of the ill-fated Polar expedition in the *Jeannette*.

The recent development of the Naval War Records Office and Library deserves especial notice in this survey. To its original function as a library was added that of editing the naval records of the Civil War, and it has gradually developed into the depository of a large amount of most valuable manuscript material bearing on naval history. Among its collections of personal papers should be noted those of Dahlgren, DuPont, Farragut and many officers of both the Union and Confederate navies. It has also two or three chests of papers relating to prisoners taken in the War

of 1812, and a letter book of the British Naval Commissioners from 1784 to 1790.

Next in importance to the two offices just mentioned is the Bureau of Navigation. The records here are of two sorts, those relating to the personnel and those relating to the movements of vessels. The former include a record or register of all orders sent to officers from 1798 to the present time, and a series of confidential reports of officers from 1846 to date. The latter class of records consists of the log-books of vessels, the file of which is nearly complete since 1816, but there are also many volumes of earlier date, though few if any prior to 1801. As a historical source these log-books are rather disappointing. In the preface to his "Naval War of 1812" Roosevelt refers to them as "exasperating, being often very incomplete," and cites as an illustration the log of the *United States* which does not, he says, contain a single fact about the engagement in which the *Macedonian* was captured.

The investigator whose interest is mainly in naval architecture will find the records of the Bureau of Construction and Repair of great value. They are in two main groups, of which the earlier, extending from 1815 to 1842, comprises the records of the Navy Commissioners. These consist of the correspondence, letters received and sent, and miscellaneous papers, such as muster-rolls, reports on the state and condition of naval vessels, rules and regulations of navy-yards, timber reports, provision accounts, reports on materials and labor in repairing vessels, monthly reports of contracts, etc. Unfortunately for the investigator the correspondence is preserved in a cellar of the Navy building, and the miscellaneous papers are nailed up in boxes in a vault at the Navy Yard. The later group of papers comprises the records of the Bureau since its

establishment in 1842 and consists of ships' surveys, specifications, contracts, records of the Board on Changes, etc., as well as the records of what was commonly called "Admiral Gregory's Office," which had charge of those vessels during the Civil War that were being constructed outside of navy-yards. Finally, among the archives of the Navy Department should be noted the records of courts-martial and boards of inquiry, which are complete since 1799 and are preserved in the office of the Judge Advocate General, and the records of the Marine Corps, which, owing to lack of space, are boxed up and kept in the Marine Barracks, and are hence unavailable for purposes of investigation.

The more important archives of the Department of Justice are kept in the office of the Chief Clerk of that Department and are in two distinct groups, those prior to the establishment of the Department in 1870 being in one, and the records subsequent to that date being in the other. The earlier records are those of the old Attorney General's Office. There are several hundred boxes of original letters and papers received, which have only recently been given any arrangement. They extend from 1809, but those prior to 1830 are very few in number. The volumes of letters sent and of opinions are complete since 1817, but until that date no attempt had been made to preserve any records. In the earliest volume is to be found a note by Attorney General Wirt to the effect that upon assuming the duties of his office he found not a scrap of paper in the form of records of what his predecessors had done, conceiving such a neglect to be especially unfortunate in a branch of the government where consistency of action was of prime importance, he announced his determination of commencing thereupon the keeping of regular records, a resolve which he at once put into practice

although it at first made it necessary for him to copy out his letters in the huge ledger volumes himself. The records of the Department of Justice since 1870 have been kept in various series of letters sent and letters received. They include correspondence with the President and members of the Cabinet, with court officers, marshals, district attorneys, and the general public. The historical value of these archives is very considerable: admiralty cases in time of war; labor troubles, when recourse is had to federal courts; provisions of state constitutions, when their legality under the United States Constitution is involved; and matters of similar importance are all treated.

The records of the separate bureaus of the Department of Justice are not among the archives just described but are maintained independently. Thus in the office of the Attorney in Charge of Pardons we find the records of all executive pardons, except those in the Army and Navy, granted since 1852, the earlier records being kept in the Department of State; and in the office of the Appointment Clerk are the papers relating with the appointments to the somewhat over fifteen hundred offices connected with the federal judiciary.

The extent of the archives of the Post Office Department is formidable in the extreme. The records of the Postmaster General and of the four Assistant Postmasters General are kept separately, and the subdivision in some cases carried further. Large as the present building of the department is, there is yet not enough room for the records. The eighth floor is nearly filled with them and probably as many more are kept in the storage warehouse on E Street which has already been mentioned as the receptacle for sections of the archives of the Treasury Department. The

crowding would be infinitely worse were it not that in many series only current records are preserved, the files being destroyed after a period of five or seven years. It is without hesitation that the historical investigator selects the letter books of the Postmaster General as the most promising source of valuable material. They form a series of over one hundred volumes commencing in 1789, and the chief value of the material in them lies in its bearing on social history. Especially interesting are the letters prior to 1850 in which may be read the story of westward expansion. Supplementing these volumes are those containing the orders of the Postmaster General and the records of the appointments of postmasters and the establishment of post offices. Unfortunately the fire of 1836 has deprived us of this latter material prior to that year.

The local independence of the archives of the Department of the Interior is complete. Here every bureau, and in some cases every division of a bureau, preserves its own records. Of the archives of the Office of the Secretary those that are maintained in the Patents and Miscellaneous Division may best receive our attention. Here are the papers relating to the administration of the territories since 1873, the corresponding records prior to that date being filed, it will be remembered, in the Bureau of Rolls and Library of the Department of State. Here also is a small group of papers extending from 1854 to 1872 relating to the suppression of the slave trade and to several attempts at negro colonization, especially those to found a colony on Ile à Vache. Of local interest are the fifteen boxes of papers relating to the administration of the penitentiary and jail in the District of Columbia from 1821 to 1878, and a considerable amount of correspondence and other material relating to the

construction and alteration of public buildings within the District.

In the office of Indian Affairs some of the early material is still in a state of confusion owing to its having been transferred from the War Department, which originally had supervision of Indian affairs, in 1849, when the Department of the Interior was established. There is, however, a continuous series of letters received from 1800 to the present time, the method of filing changing in 1880. There are letters from Indian agents or other officials of the bureau service, officers in the army, territorial officials, and Indians themselves, these last being picturesque if not historically of great value. The letters sent are arranged from 1800 in various series and of course deal with all aspects of Indian administration, such matters as trade, the removal of the Indians beyond the Mississippi, education, affairs of the Creeks and Cherokees, or claims holding prominent places.

In the General Land Office every division has its own files and as all the divisions are badly crowded the records have to be kept in cellars or attics or wherever else room can be found for them. In the Recorder's Division are complete records of all public land patents although the original papers prior to 1814 were destroyed in the fire of that year. In the Public Lands Division are kept the "tract books" which show the history of every surveyed subdivision of the public lands, while in the Division of Public Surveys is a vast amount of correspondence, dating from 1796, relating to the surveying of the public lands, their natural features, the opposition frequently encountered in making the survey, and similar matters. In the files of the Railroads Division is much material dating from 1829 relating to the development of canals

and railroads, the railroad files commencing in 1850. Finally should be noted the drafting Division where are preserved the files of maps.

Of the remaining offices in the Department of the Interior, those of the Bureau of Education and of the Geological survey may be passed over with bare mention because their archives are for the most part published. The same is true of the Patent Office, but the Bureau of Pensions may detain us for a moment. We are not concerned, however, with its almost endless files of accepted, pending, or rejected claims, but with a little body of material that has been segregated from the files of the Old War and Navy Division. This consists for the most part of Revolutionary diaries, orderly books, rolls, account books, letters, and similar documents which have been filed with claims, at one time or another, as evidence. Their value varies considerably but taken together they constitute an interesting group.

Sufficient investigation of the archives of the Department of Agriculture has not as yet been made to admit of a general description or an estimate of their value. While the voluminous publications of the department contain much material for the economic investigator, it is probable that the unprinted documents will be found to be of interest. Such, at least, is true of the Secretary's correspondence, which is complete since 1872 (the department was organized in 1863) and which has been carefully indexed since 1894. The letters bear on such subjects as the importation of American food products into foreign countries, the construction of the laws relating to animal diseases, irrigation and internal improvements, settlement on public lands, etc.

Of the records of the more recently established bu-

reaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor but little is to be said. Those of the Bureau of Corporations, for example, are considered as confidential; as are also the unpublished files of the Bureau of Labor. In the office of Steamboat Inspection the records are of very technical character, but those of the Office of the Commissioner of Navigation are of more interest, especially the series of "marine documents" which date from 1815 and show the ownership, model, and time and place of construction of all registered vessels. The files of the Bureau of Immigration are complete since 1891 and are admirably arranged. They consist of packets of papers relating to the individual cases that arise for decision under the immigration laws. The material in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, while largely technical as would be expected still contains much of general interest, such as the Hassler letters extending from 1803 to 1843 and relating to the early history of the Survey; a series of over seventy volumes labelled "War and Navy Assistants," comprising correspondence bearing on military affairs during the Civil War, and a collection of several thousand manuscript maps, commencing in 1835. It is probable, however, that the Bureau of the Census possesses the most valuable body of historical material in the Department of Commerce and Labor, namely the original census schedules. These were formerly in the Patents and Miscellaneous Division of the Department of the Interior, and have been only recently transferred to the Census Office. They commence with the schedules of the first census in 1790 and include all the censuses to the present time. Unfortunately many early volumes are missing but commencing with 1830 the schedules are reasonably complete. There are in all, exclusive of the unbound schedules of the last two censuses,

about 4,600 volumes. These, of course, contain the detailed data from which the printed summaries have been compiled; thus, for example, in the schedules of the first census, if we take the reports for any given town, we find the names of heads of families, the number of members, with sex and approximate age of each, in each family, the number of slaves, etc. As the enumerator in most cases probably went from house to house it becomes possible to ascertain who were the neighbors of any given family. Access to these records is at present restricted to the employees of the bureau, but queries from investigators are readily answered. The schedules of the first census are being printed, and it is to be hoped that publication can continue until at least the earlier material is thus made accessible.

While the two permanent commissions for Civil Service and Interstate Commerce do not belong to any of the executive departments, they are a part of the executive branch of the government and as such should receive mention in this survey. The records of the Civil Service Commission are mainly administrative in character but in the proceedings and the correspondence, both complete since 1883, the student of executive and congressional patronage would doubtless find much of interest. The archives of the Interstate Commerce Commission consist of the correspondence, of which there is a complete and well-indexed file from 1887; the series of informal complaints which are those cases where the Commission, acting as an intermediary rather than as a tribunal, secures an accommodation between the parties; the formal complaints, which are the records of all cases that are tried before the Commission; a series of over five million railroad tariffs, monthly reports of accidents, considered confidential; and a collection of miscellaneous papers and reports, much of which is printed.

With this then may end our account of the executive archives. Hasty and summary as has been the review, omitting much that is worthy of note, it is yet hoped that it has directed attention to the diversity, value and formidable extent of this material, and especially that it has made clear the urgent need of providing for its collection and organization, and of administering it as a body of archives, not merely as the business records of so many offices. Already there have been irreparable losses and we have little reason to feel assured that there may not be others. The present is none too soon to attempt the solution of a problem which daily becomes more complicated and more pressing.

VIRGINIA THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

By AINSWORTH RAND SPOFFORD, LL.D.

(Read before the Columbia Historical Society, April 8, 1907.)

Back from the first decade of the twentieth century, to the first decade of the seventeenth; from a Virginia coast studded with populous cities, costly docks, and cannon-defended forts, to a desolate shore-line stretching back into boundless primeval forests; from a State gridironed with steam railways, and teeming with vehicles of every kind on its countless highways, to a horseless region where no wheel was ever seen, and with no roads save obscure Indian trails; from a land swarming with books, newspapers and schools, to a barbarous and bookless race, without a vestige of written language; from a population of two million civilized men, housed in commodious dwellings, and busied in all the arts of life, to a few scanty tribes of painted savages, living in rude wigwams, hunting beasts and birds with bows and arrows, and between whiles hunting one another—such is the transition which the retrospect of three centuries brings to the mind to-day.

To place before our eyes the Virginia of 1607; to restore its dusky aborigines as they lived and roamed abroad in their wild nomadic life; to look in upon the Jamestown settlers in their first struggles to plant British civilization in America; is the aim of this brief discourse. I shall omit all reference to the intervening history, and since all writers at second hand contribute nothing to our knowledge of the subject, I shall rely only on original authorities, citing no

writer save eye-witnesses of what they describe, or chroniclers who wrote during the first fifteen years after the settlement at Jamestown.

What do we know concerning the primal voyage of those who were aptly styled "the Adventurers for Virginia"? Only two narratives written by actual members of that historic expedition have come down to us: (1) Captain John Smith's "True Relation," printed at London in 1608; and (2) George Percy's "Discourse of the Plantation of the southern Colonie in Virginia by the English," first published in the fourth volume of "Purchas his Pilgrims," London, 1625. The first is of provoking brevity, scarcely fifty words being devoted to the voyage itself, while Smith fills his thirty-six pages of this tract of 1608 with an account of the progress of the colony. Here is all he says of the voyage:

"After many crosses in the downes by tempests, wee arrived safely upon the Southwest part of the great Canaries: within foure or five daies after, we set saile for Dominica. The 26 of Aprill the first land we made, wee fell with Cape Henry the verie mouth of the Bay of Chissiapiacke (Chesapeake) which at that present we little expected, having by a cruell storme bene put to the Northward."

Much more satisfactory is Percy's narrative of the voyage. He was the only person in the role of gentlemen making up the *personnel* of the first voyage who is styled "Honorable," and it is recorded of him that he was "a gentleman of great honor, courage, and industry." He was a son of the eighth Earl of Northumberland, and brother of the ninth Earl. His account (doubtless written during and soon after the voyage) details the passage of "the fleet," (as he

terms it) by St. John, (Porto Rico,) and other West Indian islands, until

“The six and twentieth day of Aprill about foure o clocke in the morning, wee descried the Land of Virginia; the same day wee entred into the Bay of Chesupioc directly, without any let or hinderance; there we landed.”

What manner of men were those who made up this first permanent English colony in the New World? Although personal particulars are generally lacking, there are recorded the following descriptive notes regarding the 105 persons, who, with 39 seamen forming the crews, embarked on the 19th of December, 1606, on three small vessels, the largest being of but one hundred tons, on this memorable voyage. The list embraced: 54 gentlemen, 2 surgeons, 1 preacher, 4 carpenters, 2 bricklayers or masons, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailor, 1 barber, 1 drummer, 8 laborers, and 4 boys. No woman was on board, though in the “second supply,” or reinforcement, in 1608, embracing seventy emigrants, two women are recorded, and in a later supply (1609) two children were born in the passage over.

The more notable of the fifty-four “Gentlemen” classed above were:

1. Captain John Smith (1580–1631) whose career of two years and a half in Virginia, and his copious writings, so often reprinted, have made his name famous.
2. Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, a mariner who had been with Raleigh’s expedition, and who made a voyage to the New England coast in 1602, when he discovered Martha’s Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands. He died at Jamestown, four months after landing, in 1607.

3. Captain Edward Maria Wingfield, a soldier by training, who was elected by his colleagues the first president of the colony, but deposed the same year (1607). Returning to England in 1608, he wrote "A Discourse of Virginia," in his own vindication, which was not published until 1860.

4. Captain John Ratcliffe, second president of the colony, who was betrayed and murdered by Powhatan in 1609.

5. Captain Christopher Newport, a mariner of tried experience and deserved celebrity, who had made previous voyages to the West Indies. He was given by the London Council for Virginia "sole charge and command of all the captains, soldiers, mariners and other persons, that shall go in any the said ships in the said voyage, until they shall fortune to land upon the said coast of Virginia." He made, as commander, five separate voyages to Virginia, from 1607 to 1611, and many in the East Indies, rose to the rank of admiral, and the flourishing city of Newport News perpetuates his name in America.

6. Captain John Martin, soldier and mariner, commanded a ship in Raleigh's expedition of 1585, when he sailed along the coast of Virginia. He received an extensive grant of land by patent, known as "Martin's Brandon," and died in Virginia.

7. George Kendall. Little is known of him, except that he was put to death in the violent dissensions in the Council in 1607.

All of the foregoing were named as forming the Council for the government of the infant colony, in the sealed instructions of the London "Council for Virginia," appointed by King James I. The seals were not to be broken until the landing in Virginia. This was a wise precaution, doubtless designed to prevent

dissension during the long voyage, for the entire term of which all the "captains" and others on board were placed expressly under the authority of Captain Newport. If the London Council had gone further, and vested the actual control of the Virginia Colony in a single head, of requisite ability and discretion, it might have prevented the direful evils that grew out of dissensions among the seven Councillors.

The requirement that these men should choose one of their number president, to serve one year, was carried out by the election of Captain Wingfield. He was, however, deposed by his colleagues during his term, and Ratcliffe put in his place. John Smith, who had been confined during part of the voyage, charged with mutinous acts, was not admitted to the Council until late in 1607, and was chosen president in 1608.

This first permanent English colony in America was organized under a charter or "Letters Patent" from King James, dated April 10, 1606. It granted to Sir Thomas Gates and others rights to settle and inhabit "that part of America commonly called Virginia," between thirty-four and forty-one degrees of latitude; *i. e.*, from Cape Fear northward to the southern boundary of the North Virginia Company. The company long known as settling South Virginia was first to found a colony. Full and exclusive possession of the soil was given, with military power to defend the same, subject only to a reservation for the crown of one fifth of the net produce of gold and silver, and one fifteenth of that of copper. This provision led to nothing, no gold nor silver being found, and very little copper. The supreme power of government of the colony was reserved to the king. In judicial matters, trial by a jury of twelve men was secured to all charged with capital crimes, but in all other cases, the Virginia Council had jurisdiction, without appeal.

A most unwise provision required all property to be held in common, or as joint stock among the colonists for five years. This led to shiftless idleness among many settlers, until President John Smith enforced six hours of daily labor upon all. The settlers were commanded to locate themselves upon the largest navigable river found, not near the sea, so as to preclude sudden attack: "neither must you plant in a low or moist place, because it will prove unhealthfull." This injunction was directly violated by the choice of Jamestown Island, a very marshy and malarious location, which Lord De La Warr declared, in 1611, was "a very noisome and unwholesome place." The colonists were charged—"In all your passages you must have great care not to offend the naturals"—meaning the Indians—a precept which was not well kept by some of them.

What were the characteristics of the country which the Virginia colonists found? While there had been many earlier voyages to the eastern coasts of North America, and at least two temporary settlements by Englishmen, no description of what now constitutes Virginia had been made. In 1584 Queen Elizabeth granted "Letters Patent" to Sir Walter Raleigh and his associates, "for discovering and planting new lands in America." Under this grant Raleigh sent an expedition commanded by Captains Amadas and Barlow, who discovered the coast of North Carolina, named Pamlico Sound, Albemarle Sound and Roanoke Island, and returned to England in early autumn. This first experience in a balmy atmosphere and amid midsummer beauty and fragrance, carried abroad in Britain a most engaging account of the new lands beyond the sea. Queen Elizabeth was gratified and named the country

Virginia—it is said in honor of her own maiden state, but quite as probably to commemorate a virgin territory newly discovered.

The following year, 1585, found Raleigh's colony of about 120 souls settled on Roanoke Island; but so dissatisfied did they become after a year's trial that they returned to England. In 1586 a relief ship left fifteen men at Roanoke, who were never more heard of; and this, in brief, is the forlorn history of Raleigh's "Lost Colony of Roanoke."

Recurring to the landing in Virginia of the colony of 1607, we must bear in mind that it was early spring. We need not be surprised to find many glowing encomiums upon the vernal beauty that everywhere met the eyes of men so lately escaped from the smoke and fog of London. George Percy wrote that they found, on landing:

"Faire meddowes and goodly tall trees, with such Fresh-waters running through the woods, as I was almost ravished at the first sight thereof." Farther inland he found "excellent ground full of Flowers of divers kinds and colors"; also, "a plot full of fine and beautiful strawberries, foure times bigger and better than ours in England."

"There are also great store of Vines, in bignes of a man's thigh, running up to the tops of the trees in great abundance. We also did see many squirrels, conies, Black Birds with crimson wings, and divers other Fowles and Birds of sundrie colours, of crimson, watchet, Yellow, Greene, and of divers other hewes.

"This River which wee have discovered (the James) is one of the famousest Rivers that ever was found by any Christian. Wheresoever we landed, wee saw the goodliest Woods, as Beech, Oke, Cedar, Cypressse, Walnuts, Sassafras, and other Trees unknowne; and all the grounds bespred with Straw-

berries, Mulberries, Rasberries and fruits unknowne. There are many branches of this River, which runne flowing through the Woods, with great plentie of Fish of all kindes, as for Sturgeon all the World cannot be compared to it. There is also great store of Deere, both Red and Fallow. There are Beares, Foxes, Otters, Bevers, Muskats, and wild beasts unknowne."

The anonymous writer of Captain Newport's "Rela-
tyon of Discovery," or voyage up the James River in
1607, thus describes the Virginia interior:

"The soyle is more fertill than can be well exprest; a black, fatt, sandy mould, under which about a yard, is in most places a redd clay, fitt for brick; in others, marle; in other, gravell-stones and rocks. It produceth of corne of that coun-
trei sometymes two or three stemes or stalks, on which grow eares above a spann longe, besett with cornes, at the least three hundred upon an eare: for the most part five, six, and seven hundred. The beanes and peas have a great increase also; it yeelds two cropps a yeare. I assure myself, no knowne continent brings forth any vendible necessaryes which this, by planting, will not afford. All our garden-seeds that were sowne prosper well; yet we only digged the ground half a [foot] threw in the seeds at random, and scarce rakt it. The thing we crave is some skillfull man to husband, sett, plant and dresse vynes, suger-canes, olives, rapes, hemp, flax, lycoris, pruyns, currants, raysons, and all such things as the north tropic of the world affords."

John Smith's early description of Virginia has the following:

"Within is a country that may have the prerogative over the most pleasant places of Europe, Asia, Africa or America, for large and pleasant navigable rivers. Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation. Here are mountaines, hils, plaines, valleyes, rivers and

brookes, all running most pleasantly into a faire Bay, compassed with fruitfull and delightsome land. The vesture of the earth in most places doeth manifestly prove the nature of the soile to be lusty and very rich.

"The country is not mountainous nor yet low, but such pleasant plaines, hils and fertile valleyes, one prettily crossing another, and watered so conveniently with their sweete brookes and crystall springs, as if art itself had devised them.

"The sommer is hot as in Spain; the winter colde as in Fraunce or England. The colde is extreame sharpe, but no extreame long continueth."

Captain Smith explored the Potomac River, which he calls the "Patawomeke," and says:

"It is navigable 140 miles, and fed with many sweet rivers and springs, which fall from the bordering hils. These hils many of them are planted, and yielde no lesse plenty and variety of fruit than the river exceedeth with abundance of fish. This river is inhabited on both sides. First on the south side at the very entrance is Wicocomoko, some 130 men; beyond them Sekacawone, with thirty. Then Onawmanicut with 100. Then Patawomeke with 160 able men.

"Virginia doth afford many excellent vegetables and living creatures, yet grasse there is little or none but what groweth in lowe marshes; for all the Countrey is overgrowne with trees."

"Under that latitude or climat here will live any beasts, as horses, goats, sheep, asses, hens, &c. as appeared by them that were carried thither."

Here it may be noted that the horse was not found in eastern America by the English colonists. They soon imported them, and horses, asses and mules became abundant.

"A New-Yeeres Gift to Virginea" is the title of a sermon preached in 1609 by Wm. Crashaw, a Puritan

divine, "before Lord La Warre (Delaware) Lord Governour and Captaine Generall of Virginea." It declares the voyage to that colony "the easiest, fairest, and safest that hath been discovered; so secure as though God himselfe had built a bridge for men to passe from England to Virginea. Blessed be the Lord God of Virginea, and let all Christian people say *Amen.*" The early issues of the press relating to Virginia exhort all good Englishmen to join in spreading the Christian faith among the Indians. The book entitled "*Nova Britannia*" (1609) urges its readers "to advance and spread the Kingdome of God among so many millions, savage and blind, that never yet saw the true light shine before their eyes, to enlighten their minds and comfort their soules." The writer proceeds to describe how "the ayre and clymate most sweete and wholesome," and the abundance of natural wealth would make every settler rich and happy. Thus, with one eye firmly fixed on the kingdom of heaven, and the other on the main chance, our author blows the trumpet of the great Virginia Company.

The company itself put forth, between the years 1609 and 1623, when it was dissolved, more than thirty different books, tracts or broadsides, designed to promote emigration. In one of these, "*A Declaration of the State of the Colony and Affaires in Virginia*" (1610), it is set forth that "the Countrey is rich, spacious, and well watered; abounding with all God's naturall blessings; in summer, a Countrey too good for ill people. We rest in great assurance, that this Countrey, as it is seated neere the midst of the world, betweene the extremities of heate and cold, so it participateth of the benefits of bothe."

The London Company gave notice in a "*True and Sincere Declaration*" (1609) what kind of settlers were

required to join their colony: "To avoide the scandall and perill of accepting idle and wicked persons, wee will receive no man that cannot bring good testimony of his religion to God." Then follows a list of "the number we will entertain in every necessary arte," headed with "Foure honest and learned Ministers," and embracing 132 men of all trades.

This evidences the care taken to avoid any worthless or criminal emigrants, and though in later years some convicts were sent over by direct royal command, and against the company's protest, we find the first Virginia General Court ordering that any "jaile-birds" coming in by any vessel should be re-shipped to England. So far was Virginia from having been made a "penal colony," as has been slanderously reported.

As to religion, the first colonists of 1607 at once improvised a church by "hanging an awning (which is an old saile) to three or foure trees to shadow us from the sunne. This was our Church till we built a homely thing like a barne, covered with rafts, sedge, and earth, Wee had daily Common Prayer morning and evening, every Sunday two Sermons." So writes John Smith.

Rev. Alexander Whitaker's "Good Newes from Virginia" (1613), says of Virginia's soil: "The higher ground is clay and sand mixed together at the top; but, if wee digge any depth, (as we have done for our bricks) wee finde it to bee redde clay."

This adds to the abundant evidence of early Virginia brick-making. The stories of churches and houses built of bricks imported from England are all myths of tradition. Four brick-makers came over in a single vessel in 1610, and in 1612 we find records of many brick houses.

The halcyon pictures of life and its surroundings in early Virginia were clouded by shades of a darker hue.

First (and worst) were the fatal inroads of disease that sprang from the fever-breeding swamps of Jamestown. These were aggravated by scant and improper food — many subsisting for months upon sturgeon almost wholly. Before supplies arrived from England, more than half the first settlers went to their graves. In 1610 (the dreadful year known as “the starving time”) nearly all the settlers abandoned hope and went on board convoys to return to England. But as they dropped down the James they met Lord De La Warr’s relief expedition arriving, with that nobleman as governor, and so they took heart and put back to Jamestown. The new governor, whose family name was Thomas West, and from whom the Honorable Sackville-West, British Minister in Washington a generation ago, was a lineal descendant, had subscribed \$10,000 to the Virginia Company. In his honor were named Delaware Bay and River and the colony and State of Delaware, lying within the royal grant to the Virginia Company.

What manner of people were the Virginia aborigines, as described by their early discoverers? The most extended account of them during the first ten years I find in the “*Relatyon of the Discovery of our River*” (meaning the James) made by Captain Christopher Newport,” printed from a manuscript found in the British State Papers Office by George Bancroft. I will cite the original language and orthography, with some omissions:

“There is a King in this land called Great Pawatah (Powhatan) under whose dominions are at least twenty severall Kingdomes, yet each King potent as a prince in his owne territory. These have their subjects at a quick command. They all go naked, save their privities; yet in coole weather they

weare deare-skins, with the haire on. Some have leather stockings and sandalls on their feet. Their haire is black generally, which they weare long, tyed up on a Knott. Some have chaines of long, linckt copper about their necks, and some chaines of pearle. The comon sort stick long fethers in this knott.

"Their skynn is tawny: with dying and painting themselves they delight greatly. The women do all the labour, and the men hunt and goe at their plesure. They live comonly by the water-side, in litle cottages made of canes and reeds, covered with the barke of trees. They dwell by families of kindred and alliance, some fortie or fiftie in a small village. They live upon sodden wheat, beanes and peaze, for the most part; also they kill deare, take fish in their weares, and kill fowle aboundance. They are proper, lusty, straight men; very strong: runn exceeding swiftly. Their feight is alway in the wood, with bow and arrowes, and a short wodden sword. The people steale anything that comes near them. They are naturally given to treachery. They sacrifice tobacco to the sunn.

"They have many wives: to whome, as neare I could perceive, they keep constant. I found they account after death to goe into another world, pointing eastward to the element.

"To conclude; they are a very witty and ingenious people, apt both to understand and speake our language."

Captain Newport and his fellow-voyagers reached up the James what they called "Powhatan's Tower." The narrative says:

"It is scituat upon a highe hill by the water-syde: a playne betweene it and the water, whereon he sowes his wheate, beane, peaze, tobacco, pompions, gowrds, hempe, flaxe, &c. Heere we were conducted up the hill to the Kyng. The matts for us were layde right over against the Kynge's. He caused his weomen to bring us vittailles, mulberyes, strawberries, &c. but our best entertainment was friendly wellcome."

The next day

"it being dynner-tyme, the King satt with us. He eat very freshly of our meate; dranck of our beere, aquavite, and sack." This was on a Sunday; and on Monday, they found King Powhatan very sick: "our hott drincks, he told us, caused his greefe," which, perhaps, was no wonder. "He sent for another deere, which was roasted, and thus wee satt banquetting all the forenoone. We had parched meale, excellent good: sodd beanes, which eate as sweete as filbert kernells; and mulberyes were shaken off the tree, dropping on our heads as we satt. He made ready a land-turtle, which we eate; and shewed that he was hartely rejoyced in our company. Capt. Newport bestowed on him a redd wastcoat, which highly pleased him: and so departed, giving him two shouts as the boats went off." The next day, "wee sawe the queene of this country cominge in self-same fashion of state as Powhatan; yea, rather, with more majesty. She is a fatt, lusty, manly woman. She had much copper about her neck: a crownet of copper upon her hed. She had long black haire, which hanged loose downe her back to her middle; which only part was covered with a deare's skyn, and ells all naked. Our captain presented her with gnyfts liberally; whereupon she cheered somewhat, and requested him to shoote off a peece. She had much corne in the ground. She is subject to Powhatan, as the rest are; yet, within herselfe, of as great authority as any of her neighbor wyoances."

This narrative gives an account of a furious attack upon the fort at Jamestown on May 26, 1607 (one month after the landing), by over two hundred Indians. They killed two Englishmen with their arrows, wounded eleven and were driven off into the woods only by the fire of shot from the ship at anchor in the James. The writer declares that the natives proved themselves in this hot skirmish "a very valiant people."

Henry Spelman, son of Sir Henry Spelman, the noted

English antiquary and author, sailed to Virginia in 1609, and lived more than a year among the Indians on the James and the Potomac. He became an interpreter and trader, and was killed by the Anacostan tribe, probably near the site of Washington City, in 1623. He wrote a "Relation of Virginea" about the year 1611, and thus described the natives as he knew them:

"When they meet at feasts or otherwise, they use sports much like to ours in England, as their daunsinge, which is like our Hornepipe, a man first and then a woman, hanging all in a round; ther is one which stand in the midst with a pipe and a rattell, with which when he beginns to make a noise, all the rest gidgetts about, wrying their neckes and stampinge on ye ground.

"They use beside football play, which women and young boyes doe much play at—the men never. They make their Gooles as ours, only they never fight nor pull one another doune.

"Thir Buildings are made like an oven, with a litell hole to cum in at; haveinge a hole in the midst of ye house for smoke to goe out at. At meat, they sett on matts round about ye howse, the men by themselves, and the weomen by ther selves; ye weomen bringe to every one a dish of meat, for the better sort never eates together in one dish. Ye comon people have no beards at all, for they pull away their hares as fast as it growes."

Spelman says of the religion of the native Indians:

"Concerning their Gods, yow must understand that for ye most part they worship ye divell, which their coniuorors who are ther preests can make apeare unto them at their pleasuer. Yet never ye less in every cuntry they have a severall Image whom they call ther god. And unto ther Images they offer Beades and Copper, if at any time they want Raine or have to much. They observe no day to worshipe their god."

Percy describes the weapons of the Indians thus: "Their Bowes are made of tough Hasell, their strings of Leather, their Arrowes of Canes or Hasoll, headed with very sharpe stones, or the ends of Deeres' Hornes, and are feathered very artificially."

He adds concerning their worship:

"These people have a great reverence to the Sunne above all other things: at the rising and setting they sit downe, lifting up their hands to the Sunne, making a round circle on the ground with Tobacco: then they began to pray, making many Devillish gestures with a Hellish noise, foming at the mouth, staring with their eyes, wagging their heads in such a fashion of deformitie as it was monstrous to behold."

Newport's "Relatyon" says:

"The inhabitants have no comerce with any nation, no respect of proffit; neither is there scarce that we call *meum et tuum* among them, save onely the Kings know their owne territoryes, and the people their severall gardens."

Percy thus describes the tattooing practiced by the Indians:

"The women kinde in this Countrey doth pounce and race their bodies, legges, thighes, armes and faces with a sharpe Iron, which drawes the proportion of Fowles, Fish, or Beasts: then with paintings of sundry lively colours they rub it into the stampe which will never be taken away, because it is dried into the Flesh where it is sered."

The great prominence of Captain John Smith in early Virginia history commands our attention. He may be said to have dominated the written annals of that colony for centuries, until modern criticism took hold of his books and his record, and undertook to discredit both. Careful scrutiny of his many writings

reveals manifest discrepancies, much self-assertion and exaggeration, with some marvellous stories. On the other hand, one finds in his books a sagacious and enterprising spirit, patriotic zeal for the honor of England, and much varied information concerning her colonies. As to his record in Virginia, notwithstanding all that his detractors have alleged against him, he proved an energetic, laborious and masterful president of the young colony, and a brave and hardy explorer, whose map of Virginia, constructed with no data to go upon, save his own personal discoveries, remains to this day his most striking monument.

John Smith was pursued by animosity and detraction, as are most men of large capacity who are more positive than politic in their intercourse with others. He was one of those warm-blooded, aggressive, daring men who do things—not of those who sit idly by, and hope that they will be done. He did more for the welfare of the infant colony than any of his predecessors or immediate successors in the office of president; and his name remains almost the only widely recognized one among the first founders of Virginia.

The widely-questioned and still more widely-credited story of John Smith's rescue from a bloody death of Pocahontas rests upon his statement alone. None of the early Virginia chroniclers—Hamor, Wingfield, Spelman, Whitaker, Waterhouse—makes mention of it. Smith himself published two books on Virginia, one in 1608, and one in 1612, and not a word of this romantic incident appears in either. He first laid it before the world in 1624, sixteen years after the alleged event, in his "*Generall Historie of Virginia.*" In another work of 1631, he expands the original statement by declaring "that blessed Pokahontas oft saved my life."

Here is John Smith's original account of Pocahontas, in his "True Relation" of 1608, in which work there is no mention of that maiden being present at Smith's first interview with her father, Powhatan, when, as he long after declared, he was condemned to death by the king.

"Powhatan understanding we detained certain salvages, sent his Daughter, a child of tenne years old; which, not only for feature, countenance and proportion, much exceedeth any of the rest of his people; but for wit and spirit is the only *Nonpariel* of his Country."

The Indian captives thus asked for were released, and returned with Pocahontas to Powhatan.

Reasons why the rescue story was not told by other writers are not far to seek. There was but one eyewitness (Smith himself), and he was silent about it for nearly twenty years. The reasons for this reticence are all conjectural, but must be admitted to have weight. The colonists had orders not to send to England "any letters of anything that may discourage others." Smith may have suppressed the story of Powhatan's intended murder of him, lest the account of such cruelty on the part of the "Emperor of Virginia" might deter emigrants to the colony. This motive no longer existed in 1624, when Powhatan was dead, and Virginia was strong in its many thousand settlers. Besides, what motive could Smith have had for fabricating such a story? As to the cruel savagery of dashing out the brains of a captive, other witnesses of that time have recorded that the Indians broke with clubs the limbs of their criminals doomed to die for theft, and then threw them alive into the flames.

Whatever may be thought of the credibility of the story so tardily, yet so circumstantially told, it has

given birth to a mass of literature, in which writers on one side have treated the Pocahontas incident as early American mythology, while the others have resented the attacks of the iconoclasts as rude attempts to undermine cherished and sacred beliefs. The chief authors who discredit it are Neill, Deane, Alexander Brown, Henry Adams, Lodge, Winsor, Eggleston, Charles Dudley Warner, Gay, Palfrey, and Doyle. On the other hand, among writers who credit it are Henry, Howison, Bruce, Arber, Tyler, and John Fiske. Bancroft, in the early editions of his history, published the story, but in his last revised edition of 1879 he suppressed it, while Woodrow Wilson, in his late voluminous "History of the American People," ignores it entirely.

There have been half a dozen, at least, of dramas founded on this romantic story. John Esten Cooke's "My Lady Pokahontas" is a romance without historical foundation. The story has been sculptured in enduring stone in the Rotunda of the Capitol, perhaps the very worst example of the barbaric art which disfigures that noble building.

Whether the dramatic scene of the rescue ever occurred, or not, the most strenuous of skeptics must admit that Pocahontas, the fair and dusky maiden who befriended the English, was a genuine historic character, who showed her good sense by marrying one of a superior race, and thus became the progenitor of some of the most honored sons of old Virginia.

OLD GEORGETOWN.

By HUGH T. TAGGART.

(Read before the Society, May 13, 1907.)

George-Town, "on the Patowmack," was ushered into existence under an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed in the year 1751, a quarter of a century before the province ceased to be a loyal dependency of the British Crown: it progressed and prospered to such an extent that the rank and dignity of an incorporated city was conferred upon it, in the year 1789, by the General Assembly of the independent State; soon thereafter it became a part of the district which was selected by President Washington for the permanent seat of the Federal Government, under the authority of an act of cession by the State to the United States. This district, designated originally the "Territory of Columbia," became known later as the "District of Columbia."

As town and city, it existed for a period of one hundred and twenty years, during which it was under the dominion successively of three sovereigns, the King of Great Britain, the State of Maryland and the United States. Its charter was repealed in the year 1871, by an Act of Congress which provided for a municipal government with jurisdiction over the entire District of Columbia; the act, however, provided that that portion of the District which was within the limits of the former municipality should still continue to be known as the City of Georgetown, and that its laws and ordinances should continue in force until repealed; but by the sweeping provisions of a further Act of Congress, passed in

1895, even these remnants of its legal identity were obliterated and so far as it was possible to accomplish it by legislation that identity was destroyed. The act declared "the title and existence of Georgetown as a separate and independent city by law" to be abolished; and that all that portion of the District embraced within the bounds of and constituting the city of Georgetown should be no longer known "by the name and title in law of the City of Georgetown, but the same shall be known and shall constitute a part of the City of Washington, the Federal Capital;" all general laws, ordinances and regulations of the City of Georgetown were repealed and the general laws, ordinances and regulations of the City of Washington substituted for them, and it provided that the nomenclature of the streets of Georgetown and the numbering of its squares or blocks should be made to conform to those of the City of Washington.

The changes effected by this legislation of Congress have been such that there is, at the present time, little or nothing to indicate to the casual observer that a city had existed on the west side of Rock Creek, for almost half a century, before the City of Washington was located; nevertheless, the annals of the city that was must always form an interesting chapter in the history of the National Capital of which it now forms part, and in that of the District of Columbia, within which both cities existed, side by side, for eighty years.

Georgetown, from the historical standpoint, seems to have been a neglected subject until the year 1859. In that year the Rev. Thomas B. Balch delivered two lectures under the title of "Reminiscences of Georgetown, D. C.," which were printed: and in the year 1878 Mr. R. P. Jackson published the "Chronicles of George-

town." Both of these gentlemen have paid the debt of nature, leaving the community under a debt of gratitude to them for having rescued from oblivion and perpetuated many facts in the history of the town.

While in the present contribution a number of facts in the early history of Georgetown have been collected which may be added to those related by the gentlemen named, and this was mainly its purpose, the scope of the paper has been enlarged by the mention of events, some of which happened in this region before Georgetown became a speck on the landscape of the continent, and all of which have a bearing more or less direct upon the history of the entire District of Columbia. The narrative of these facts and events is given without special regard to orderly method in their presentation, and without attempt at rhetorical embellishment or literary finish, but, notwithstanding the writer realizes its shortcomings in these and other respects, he is consoled in some degree by an observation of Professor Freeman in the introduction to his work on *American Institutional History* "that even the researches of the dullest antiquary have their use."

EARLY NAVIGATORS OF THE POTOMAC.

The honor is popularly ascribed to Captain John Smith of having been the first man of European race to explore the Potomac River, and to contemplate in the region which includes the site of the District of Columbia, the wealth of forest, flowers, animal life and other glories displayed by nature before she had felt the withering touch of civilization; yet there is nothing in the writings of Smith to indicate that his exploration of the river had been extended to the vicinity of the first or Little Falls. He makes no mention of

this absolute barrier to further navigation; it is, in fact, apparent from his map that this portion of the river was laid down upon it from narration and not from actual exploration.

It seems also to be historically demonstrable that he had been preceded many years before by the Spaniards, who had sailed up the river at least as far as the place we now know as Occoquan, and that to the river they had given the name of Espiritu Santo.

It is an interesting story gleaned from the Spanish archives by Buckingham Smith and narrated by Shea, the Catholic historian, in a paper read by him before the New York Historical Society, several years ago. A tall, well-formed brave, the brother of a native chieftain, who was the ruler of Axacan, upon the occasion of a visit to the river by a Spanish vessel, was persuaded by the Spaniards to accompany them upon their return to Mexico, which, at the time, had been conquered and was under the government of the Viceroy, Don Luis de Velasco.

The Indian from the shores of the Potomac upon his arrival at the City of Mexico was taken under the Viceroy's patronage and was solemnly and with great pomp baptized in the Cathedral; he took the name of his patron, was educated in the Spanish language and instructed in the Christian religion, and in the course of time was sent to Spain, where he spent several years.

In the year 1566 the famous Spanish admiral, Pedro Melendez, dispatched a vessel bearing thirty soldiers and two Dominican fathers to establish a station at Axacan. This party, having no taste for a laborious mission and becoming alarmed over anticipated dangers, forced the captain to return; then the Jesuits resolved to embark in the enterprise which had been abandoned by the Dominicans and four years later

Father Segura, Vice-Provincial, accompanied by some younger members of the society, set sail for Axacan, at which they arrived on September 10, 1570. The Indian, Luis de Velasco, at this time well advanced in years and a man, grave and intelligent, thoroughly conversant with Spanish affairs and to all appearances a sincere Christian and friend of the Spaniards, had volunteered to accompany the missionaries and made every promise as to the security of their persons.

It was thought that with the presence, active interest and support of Luis, no guards would be needed, and as soldiers would be a detriment to the mission, the missionaries determined to trust themselves entirely in the hands of the Indians. For a time after their arrival Luis remained with them, but, being once more upon his native heath, his original nature reasserted itself; his old instincts and habits returned; the veneer of his Christian civilization proved to be but thin and easily effaced; "he became Indian with the Indians rather than Spanish with the Spaniards," and he finally forsook the missionaries altogether.

The latter being reduced to great straits for food during the winter, three of their number were sent to make a last appeal to Luis for assistance. He made many excuses for his absence and sought to beguile them with promises. As they were departing sadly from the Indian village, convinced of his insincerity, they were attacked and slain and their bodies horribly mutilated by the savages. Four days after this, Luis, arrayed in the gown of one of the murdered priests, and attended by his brother and a war party, armed with clubs and bows, appeared before the quarters of the survivors, who knelt at their rude altar and calmly awaited their fate; at a signal from Luis they were massacred. The bodies of Father John Baptiste Se-

gura, Brothers Gabriel Gomez, Peter D. Linares, Sancho Lorillos and Christopher Redondo, and of their Indian attendants, who were also slain, were buried beneath their chapel.

In the spring a vessel bearing supplies for the missionaries anchored off Axacan; the Indians sought to lure on shore those on board by pointing to men arrayed in the garb of the missionaries, standing some distance away; but treachery was suspected from the fact that these did not approach nearer and join in the demonstrations of welcome. The Spaniards weighed anchor and sailed away, taking with them two of the Indians whom they had seized and from whom the fate of the missionaries was learned.

Melendez, having heard the report, sailed at once for the Bay of St. Mary's, as the Chesapeake was called by his countrymen, for the purpose of chastising the murderers; he ran up the Espiritu Santo or Potomac and landed with a band of armed men, unfurled the flag of Spain and pursued and captured many of the Indians. To them he announced that he would not harm the innocent and demanded that Luis be delivered up; but that fiend had fled to the mountains. Eight others, who had been concerned in the killing, were sent by Melendez on board his vessel and hung at the yard arm. "After this summary piece of justice," says Shea, "the founder of St. Augustine, with his mail-clad force, embarked and the Spanish flag floated for the last time over the land of Axacan." He adds: "So ends the history of the first settlement of white men on the soil of Virginia. The walls of the Capitol at Washington might well be adorned with a painting of a scene which occurred almost in sight of its dome—the founder of St. Augustine, the butcher of Ribault, the chosen commander of the Invincible Armada, as he stood, surrounded by his

grim warriors, planting the standard of Spain on the banks of the Potomac."

Later researches indicate that there was a still earlier settlement of white men in Virginia than that made in the year 1570 at Axacan on the Potomac.

A great exposition is in progress to-day at Hampton Roads in commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the English settlement at Jamestown, but even here the English seem to have been preceded by the Spaniards. The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia (1894-5) states that on May 13, 1607, the first permanent English settlement in the United States, situated on the James River, in James City County, Virginia, was made upon the site of the Spanish settlement of San Miguel, founded by Lucas Vasqueth de Ayllon, and that he died there on October 18, 1526. Ayllon, it is said, was a Spanish lawyer and a Judge of the Audience of Santo Domingo from 1509.

"In 1519, he was sent by the Audience to Cuba, to prevent Velasqueth, Governor of that island, from interfering with the expedition of Cortes in Mexico, but was unsuccessful. In 1520, he secured a license to explore the coast of Florida, and sent a caravel there under the command of Gordilla. Satisfied by his reports, Ayllon went to Spain, received a royal Cédula to explore and settle eight hundred leagues of coast, and, after sending a preliminary expedition under Pedro de Quexos (1525), he sailed for Hispaniola in June, 1526, with three ships and people for a colony. After running along the coast, he fixed his settlement called San Miguel, where the English afterwards founded Jamestown, Virginia. There he died of a fever, and quarrels in the colony led to its abandonment."

From "The Catholic Church in Colonial Days," one of Mr. Shea's works, it appears that the vessels of

Ayllon carried "six hundred persons of both sexes with abundant supplies and horses"; that entering the Capes of the Chesapeake, he ascended a river and established a colony at Guandape, giving it the name of St. Michael, "the spot being by the testimony of Ecija, pilot-in-chief of Florida, that, where the English subsequently founded Jamestown."

Ecija, Pilot Mayor of Florida, whose office had possession of the Spanish charts and derroteros of the coast, was sent in 1609 to discover what the English were doing.

In regard to the mission on the Potomac, Mr. Shea states that no document exists by which the precise location of Axacan is shown, but he advances several reasons in favor of the theory that it was at Occoquan, the principal one of which is the resemblance of the latter name to the Spanish Axacan. In addition to the reasons given by him there are others which tend to establish almost conclusively the correctness of this theory as to the location.

The grammarians inform us that the letter "j" in the Spanish has always a guttural sound, like the English "h" strongly aspirated, and like the guttural sound of "ch" in the German words "nacht" and "nicht"; and that the letter "x" in the old Spanish had two very different sounds: the one exactly the same as the Spanish "j" and the other that of the English "x" in "tax." Thus, though in Spanish "Mejico" is the common spelling of "Mexico" and "Tejas" that of "Texas," the pronunciation would be the same if the words were spelled either way. If we apply the rule to Axacan we have "Ajacan," Achacan which makes such a close approach to Occoquan as to be almost identical in sound.

Furthermore, Occoquan appears to be a corruption

in a slight degree of *Achaquin*, in which latter name we easily recognize the Spanish *Ajacan*. I have in my possession a map showing the Potomac River and its tributary streams, prepared by Moll, a London geographer, and, although it bears no date, there is reason to believe that it made its appearance early in the first half of the eighteenth century. Upon this map the name of Occoquan, as we spell it now, does not appear, but a stream is located upon it relatively about where Occoquan should be, which stream bears the name of "Achaquin."

There are other features of this map worthy of note: upon it the Anacostia River or Eastern Branch is indicated, but it is not named; the main river above the mouth of the Anacostia is shown upon it as a long but otherwise insignificant stream, to which is given the unromantic but suggestive name of "Turkey Buzzard Run"; to the point at the Arsenal is given the name of "Turkey Buzzard Point"; that point continued to be known as "Turkey Buzzard Point" down to the time when the federal capital was laid out; it then became known as "Young's Point," taking the name from Notley Young, the owner of the land; it was later called "Greenleaf's Point," after James Greenleaf, a large purchaser of lots in the new city, many of which were located in its vicinity; finally it took the name it now bears, Arsenal Point, from the military uses to which it was put by the government.

Two islands appear on this map in Turkey Buzzard Run, just above its confluence with the Anacostia, which are called the "Anacostian Islands"; one of these we have no difficulty in recognizing as the present Anacostan or Mason's Island, and the other as the island which formerly existed at the Virginia end of the Long Bridge, called at one time "Holmes' Island" and later "Alexander's Island."

In this connection I may add that several years ago I saw in the clerk's office of Fairfax County Court a plat which it is probable had been prepared prior to the Revolutionary War with the object of enlightening the Court as to the pretensions of the parties to an ejectment suit, and which showed a profile of the river on the Virginia side from a point below the Four Mile Run as far up as the present Aqueduct Bridge. Upon the map the two islands are delineated: the lower one bears the name of "Holmes' Island" and the one above it, viz., Analostan or Mason's Island, bears the name of "My Lord's Island." Whether the latter took this name from "My Lord Baltimore," the owner under the patent for Maryland of the land on this side of the river, or from "My Lord Fairfax," the owner under the patent for the Northern Neck of Virginia of the land on the other side, might be made the subject of a curious historical controversy involving the ancient, long-continued and but recently settled dispute between Maryland and Virginia as to the boundary line between them on the Potomac. The records of the Virginia Land Office show that as early as the year 1669, the island was so known. On October 21 of that year a patent was issued to Robert Howsing (Howson), for a tract of 6,000 acres described as lying "in the freshes" of the Potomac River and as having for its beginning a red oak standing by a small branch or run nearly opposite an island "commonly called and known by the name of My Lord's Island."

Analostan Island obtained still another name, viz., "Barbadoes," through a survey made of it by the colonial authorities of Maryland for Captain Randolph Brandt on the twenty-ninth day of April, 1682, and through the patent granted to him for it by Lord Baltimore. It is described in the certificate of survey and

patent as "an island lying in the Potomac River over against Rock Creek, in Charles County, commonly called or known by the name of Analostian Island, containing by estimation seventy-five acres. To be held of Zachiah Manor, called Barbadoes."

On the Rent Rolls of Lord Baltimore the tract is carried as "Barbadoes" and is described as an island commonly called "Anacostian Island"; from which it appears that in early days it went indifferently by either name, "Analostian" or "Anacostian."

It passed into the possession of George Mason by a deed from Francis Hammersley dated August 28, 1777, hence the name "Mason's Island."

To whom "Turkey Buzzard Point" was first indebted for its name cannot now be ascertained, but the name had its origin prior to the year 1673, for it so appears upon the map published in that year, prepared by Augustine Herman, a Bohemian, and one of the early settlers upon the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Upon Herman's map Occoquan appears as "Achquin," the middle *a* having been doubtless inadvertently omitted. The name appears again as "Achquivin" on a map in Speed's "Theater of the Empire of Great Britain," published in 1676. These and other old maps preserved in the Congressional Library present a seductive field of investigation to the student of local history; but it is impracticable to consider them in greater detail in a condensed sketch, such as the present occasion will only admit.

I shall mention but one other—Senex's map of 1719—incribed to the Earl of Orkney and published in London in a work entitled "A New General Atlas," between pages 240 and 241, and to this reference is made for the purpose of correcting an apparently erroneous impression which prevails as to the location of

the town of the Anacostan Indians. Neill and others, to whom we are indebted for sketches of the early history of Maryland and Virginia, locate these Indians upon and near the site of the city of Washington; and the fact that the river which still bears their name is on the Maryland side of the Potomac would seem to strongly support the propriety of thus locating them. Senex's map locates them, however, on the Virginia side of the river, and that he is right in so doing is apparently confirmed by the act of the Assembly of Virginia passed in 1653, prescribing the bounds of Westmoreland County, in that province, viz., "from Machoactoke River, where Mr. Cole lives; and so upwards to the falls of the great river of Patowomeke above the Necostin's towne."

From another established fact it is to be inferred that subsequently the tribe or a remnant of it had removed from the Virginia to the Maryland side of the Potomac. There is recorded among the land records of the District of Columbia a deed dated December 21, 1793, from William Berry Warman to James Greenleaf for part of a tract called Bayley's Purchase; the land conveyed by the deed is described as beginning at a stone fixed on the east side of the Eastern Branch of Potomac River "a little above the place where formerly stood the Anacostin Fort and opposite a cove called Anacostin Cove."

At the time Georgetown was laid out in 1751, the Anacostan Indians had disappeared from its vicinity, for no mention of them is to be found in its annals; they were then a lost tribe and were either extinct or had been forced by the advancing tide of white settlers towards the upper Potomac and had been incorporated with the Indians of that region.

But to return to Captain John Smith: although, as

we have seen, that remarkable man was not the first European to reach this locality, nor even the first to enter the Potomac, his name must be forever famous by reason of his importance as a factor in the events which marked the origin and preserved the germ of what developed and grew in part on its shore into one of the greatest and most glorious of American commonwealths—the State of Virginia. No sketch which involves a mention of the early navigators of the river would be complete without some notice of him.

Smith made his appearance in the colony of Virginia when the first settlers had become feeble from climatic causes and dispirited from internal troubles and by the constant menaces of the powerful Indian tribes under Powhatan; and by his firmness, courage, tact and ability he often saved them from destruction.

On June 2, 1608, Smith left the English settlement on the James, in an open boat, to explore the upper part of the Chesapeake Bay. He was accompanied by fourteen others, seven of whom are described as “gentlemen” and seven as “souldiers.” His intention was to coast along the Eastern Shore on the way up, and along the Western Shore on his return; but after several days he was compelled to abandon the Eastern Shore and to cross to the other side, on account of the difficulty of obtaining good drinking water. After being out twelve or fourteen days his men, tired with labor at the oars, and their bread spoiled with water to the degree of rottenness, became discouraged and importuned him to return, stating their fears that they would be lost “in these unknown large waters or be swallowed up in some stormy gust.” He chided them for their fears, exhorted them to regain their spirits, and asserted that he would not return until he had found the head of the waters they “conceited to be endless.” Lack of wind

and the sickness of several of the men compelled Smith, against his inclination, to abandon for the time being the further exploration of the bay; returning, they came to the mouth of the Potomac on the sixteenth of June; and the sick having recovered and being curious to learn something of that "seven mile broad river," they sailed up it according to Smith's narrative for more than thirty miles; this would have brought them to about Colonial Beach or a short distance beyond. Several of the Indian towns on the Potomac which are shown on Smith's map can be located with reasonable certainty, but the situation of the rest is a matter of conjecture purely. The map would indicate that he penetrated on this or another occasion as far perhaps as Indian Head.

There is a slight reason for the belief that the French had also preceded Smith in the navigation of the bay, and perhaps of the Potomac.

Parkman, in his "Pioneers of New France," in a footnote on page 208, states that, "In 1565 and for some years previous, bison skins were brought by the Indians down the Potomac, and thence came along shore in canoes to the French above the Gulf of St. Lawrence. During two years six thousand skins were thus obtained." He cites as authority for this statement manuscript letters of Menendez to Philip II. of Spain.

In view of the immense stretch of rough and surf-beaten sea coast, in part rock-bound, from the mouth of the Chesapeake to the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and the troublesome character of the navigation to vessels of larger size, it is incredible that the Potomac Indians made the trip in their simple canoes weighted with heavy skins. If there was trading between them and the French in skins, as is probable, the vessels of

the latter must have received the freight from the Indians in the river itself.

Of the accounts left by the early navigators of the Potomac, that of Captain Henry Fleete is the most satisfactory, but even this, in many interesting particulars, is obscure and uncertain. He was undoubtedly the first European to ascend the river past the site of Georgetown and to reach the Little Falls. Although his career was not as varied as that of Smith, it was quite adventurous and romantic. In the fall of 1621 the pinnace "Tiger," under Spilman, an experienced navigator, with twenty-six men, Fleete being among the number, was sent from Jamestown to the upper Potomac to trade with the Indians for corn. Spilman landed with twenty-one men among the Anacostans. The five men who remained on board were attacked by the Indians, who were repulsed by the discharge of a cannon; those on shore were all killed except Fleete; he remained with the Indians a number of years, learned their language and almost forgot his own, was finally ransomed and returned to England, where he regaled the people with wonderful stories of his captivity. He stated that he had been within sight of the South Seas; had seen the Indians besprinkle their paintings with powder of gold, had seen rare precious stones among them and great quantities of rich fur. He enlisted the interest of some London merchants, by whom he was despatched in a vessel to trade in the river. The manuscript of a journal of the voyage, kept by him, is preserved in the library of the Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth, and was first presented to the American reader by Neill in his "English Colonization in America." From this it appears that on July 4, 1631, the vessel sailed from the Downs, and arrived on the New England coast on September 9

following; thence it sailed on the nineteenth, arriving on October 26 in the Potomac, where a cargo of corn was obtained with which it returned to New England. On May 21 of the following year Fleete again arrived at the mouth of the river. He beat about the river for several days, going from one place to another in search of furs, visiting among other tribes the Anacostans, by whom he had been held captive some years before. Having heard of several populous Indian towns above the falls, on June 14 he dispatched his brother and two trusty Indians with presents for the kings, consisting of beads, bells, hatchets, knives, etc., and with instructions to bring the Indians to the falls where they would find him and the ship.

“On Monday, the 25th of June,” says Fleete, “we set sail for the town of Tohogae, when we came to an anchor about two leagues short of the Falls, being in the latitude 41, on the 26th of June. This place without all question is the most pleasant and healthful place in all this country, and most convenient for habitation, the air temperate in summer and not violent in winter. It aboundeth with all manner of fish. The Indians in one night will catch thirty sturgeons in a place where the river is not above twelve fathoms broad. And as for deer, buffaloes, bears, turkeys, the woods do swarm with them, and the soil is exceedingly fertile.”

On the twenty-seventh of June he says he manned his shallop “and went up with the flood, the tide rising about four feet in height at this place,” and that they had not rowed above three miles “before they could hear the falls roar not above six miles distant, by which it appears that the river is separated with rocks, but only in that one place, for beyond is a fair river.” Due allowance being made for the uncertainty of Fleete’s estimate of distance, which were mere guess-

work, there can be no mistaking the locality of which he speaks. Georgetown evidently arose upon the ashes of Tohogae, the Indian town, and those who have had any experience in fishing in the river above will have no difficulty in locating the place where the Indians caught the sturgeon, as a point just above the stone house and mill constructed by Amos Cloud towards the close of the eighteenth century. This house was the residence of the late John W. Frizzel, more familiarly known among his acquaintances by the nickname of "Bull," and the mill in recent years has been generally known as Edes Mill.

Soon after this voyage Fleete proved to be of great service to Governor Calvert and his company in the establishment of the Maryland Colony. Under his guidance the colonists were conducted to the Indian town of Yoacomoco, which had been one of his trading posts. This was purchased from the Indians and on the twenty-seventh of March, 1634, the colonists took possession and named the place St. Mary's; and here, under mutual promises of friendship and peace between the settlers and the Indians, the foundations of another great state were laid, within which Georgetown had its birth and to which it was long united by ties of interest and affection; in whose glories it shared and under which it enjoyed a high degree of commercial prosperity prior to the time when the exigencies of national politics transferred it to the care of that "paternal but irresponsible sovereign," the Congress of the United States.

The wise and benignant rule of the first Lords Proprietaries of Maryland has been justly extolled. The expectation of pecuniary gain was undoubtedly the main object of their outlays of money and efforts to settle the colony; nevertheless, their conduct of affairs

was just and generous to the people and not unduly subordinated to that end. The spirit by which they were actuated and their hopes of the future are admirably illustrated in a letter dated August 20, 1649, written by one of them from London to the General Assembly of the Province. In this letter he animadverts upon a disposition shown by some to raise jealousies and discontents between himself and the people of the colony, and claims that he has given sufficient testimony of his desire to promote by all fitting means their happiness and welfare, and he concludes by saying, "By concord and union a small colony may grow into a great and renowned nation, whereas by experience it is found that by discord and dissension great and glorious kingdoms and commonwealths decline and come to nothing." This letter is also significant as containing the first suggestion of "a great and renowned nation," as the outcome of colonization in America.

GRANTS OF LAND AND CREATION OF COUNTIES ALONG THE RIVER.

Lord Baltimore was, by the charter which he received from the English king, practically made the absolute owner of the land in Maryland, and he formulated regulations for its disposition which were called "Conditions of Plantations." Under these, numerous grants of land along the river were made at an early day; and as the tide of settlement gradually extended upwards, and as the number and convenience of the population required, counties were created and courts and officers provided for them. Charles County, which was created in 1658, included the territory along the Potomac from the mouth of the Wicomico "as high as the settlements extend"; and in 1695 Mattawoman Creek was made the upper boundary of Charles; and of the territory above

it, along the river, a new county was made under the name of Prince George's.

Governor Nicholson's commission appointing justices of the peace for the county of Prince George's, which is dated April 26, 1696, and which authorized the holding by them of a county court, is a curious document; it would seem from it that either the governor or the people, or both, believed that the "Hoodoo" or "Voodoo" man was abroad in the land; for among other duties solemnly enjoined by this instrument upon the justices was the duty of inquiring by the oaths of good and lawful men of their county "of all and all manner of Felonies, Witchcrafts, Inchantments, Sorceries, Magic Arts," etc.

The court divided the County into hundreds, one of which, extending from Oxon Branch (opposite Alexandria) to the Falls of the Potomac, and which included the present District of Columbia, was called "New Scotland Hundred"; of this, Daniel Ebbett was appointed constable; Charles Beall, pressmaster, and Francis Prisley, overseer of highways.

In 1748 Frederick County was created out of the upper part of Prince George's, with a line for its boundary "beginning at the lower side of the mouth of Rock Creek, thence by a straight line, joining to the east side of Seth Hyatt's plantation to Patuxent River."

Scharf, the Maryland historian, thinks it probable that the first settlements in Frederick County were made in the vicinity of Georgetown, which for a long time was the chief mart and only seaport of the county. Among the earlier grants of land in this section were "Blue Plains," across the Eastern Branch, surveyed for George Thompson in 1662; "St. Elizabeth," upon which is located the Government Hospital for the

Insane; and "Giesborough," surveyed in 1663; "Duddington Manor," one thousand acres; "New Troy," five hundred acres, and "Duddington Pasture," three hundred acres, were granted to George Thompson, February 12, 1663. The three last named tracts fell wholly within the limits of the City of Washington when it was laid out. "The Widow's Mite," six hundred acres, was surveyed for John Langworth in 1664; this tract extended in the form of a parallelogram from the river at the old Observatory grounds, in a northerly direction, and the greater portion of it was included in the City of Washington. "The Father's Gift," five hundred acres, was granted to Richard and William Pinner in 1668. It was located on the river west of Tiber Creek. "St. Philip and Jacob," four hundred acres, was granted to Philip Lines in 1675. This tract was on the river above Georgetown. "Girls' Portion," one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six acres, was patented to Colonel Henry Darnell in 1688. "White Haven," seven hundred and fifty-nine acres, was surveyed in 1689 for John Addison and William Hutchinson on the river above Georgetown. "The Vineyard," one hundred and fifty acres, between Rock Creek and the old Observatory grounds, was granted to William Hutchinson in 1696. "Beall's Levels," two hundred and twenty-five acres, was granted to Colonel Ninian Beall in 1703. A portion of this tract, with some vacant ground added, was the property of David Burnes, one of the original proprietors of land in the City of Washington. It was patented to him on a re-survey in 1774, as the eldest son and heir at law of his father, James Burnes, for whom it was re-surveyed in 1769, and who had died before obtaining the patent. James Burnes, the father of David, occupied the land as a

tenant for two years before purchasing it from Henry Massey. Between the year 1700 and the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, numerous other grants were made under the names of "Plain Dealing," "Success," "Little Chance," "Flint's Discovery," "Addition to Flint's Discovery," "Fortune," "Allison's Forest," "Allison's Forest Enlarged," "James' Gift," "Orme's Luck," "Rock of Dumbarton," "Addition to Rock of Dumbarton," "Beall's Lot," "Gift," "Beall's Plains," "Fellowship," "Poor Tom's Last Shift," "Good Luck," "James' Park," "Lamar's Outlet," "Knaves' Disappointment," "Conjuror's Disappointment," "Argyle, Cowell and Lorne," and others. "Mount Pleasant" and "Pleasant Plains" were re-surveys on older grants.

An early grant for a tract called "Rome" is worthy of especial mention.

The poet Moore, who visited Washington during the administration of Mr. Jefferson, satirized in verse what he assumed to be the disposition of the Washingtonians to borrow the nomenclature of ancient Rome. He wrote:

"In fancy now beneath the twilight gloom,
Come, let me lead thee o'er this modern Rome,
Where tribunes rule, where dusky Davi bow,
And what was *Goose-Creek* once, is *Tiber* now.
This fam'd metropolis, where fancy sees
Squares in morasses, obelisks in trees;
Which travelling fools, and gazetteers adorn
With shrines unbuilt, and heroes yet unborn;
Tho' naught but wood and — they see,
Where streets should run, and *sages* ought to be."

That the Washington "Tiber" had borne the name long before the City of Washington was even dreamed of is shown by the fact that a patent was issued by

the Colonial authorities of Maryland on May 13, 1664, to a facetious gentleman by the name of Francis Pope, for a tract of land called "Rome," situated on "Tiber" Creek and containing 400 acres. This tract fell within the lines of the City of Washington, and the capitol building is situated upon or near it. Mr. Pope had, evidently, a desire to be known as "Pope, of Rome, on Tiber." In cheerful contrast with the humiliating picture drawn by Moore of local conditions as he saw them is the picture drawn by another observer as to the conditions of the future and which have been happily realized.

In the Surveyor's office there is an old book, one of the records of the first commissioners of the City of Washington, upon a blank page of which there is written, under date of January 5, 1795, and under the heading "Prophecy" the following:

"The time will come when this wide waste of morass and thicket, open plain and wooded dell will resound with the busy hum of industry and be redolent with the glow of action and the thrill of life!—the swamps along the Tiber, teeming as they do now with all the varieties of animal and vegetable life, before the destructive march of man will gradually disappear, and Art will erect its palaces over the ruins of nature."

PLANTATION LIFE.

Some glimpses of plantation life in the Province are afforded by early writers.

Whitfield said in 1740 that he "found a sad dearth of piety in Maryland." Virginia was in no better condition. After the establishment of the Church of England it was necessary to obtain clergymen. Another early writer states that "but few of good conversation would adventure . . . yet many came, such as

wore black coats, and could babble in a pulpit, roare in a tavern, exact from the parishioners, and rather by their dissoluteness destroy than feed their flocks." In the language of another, "a good school for useful learning is scarcely to be found on this continent. They have a college at Williamsburg, that spoils many a man. Most of their youth are turned out with a smattering of pretty stuff; and without a solid foundation set themselves up as the standards of wit, and what is most impudent, of superior judgment."

Scharf says that the cause of education made slender progress, and that the earlier generations of Marylanders thought more of horse-racing, cock-fighting, hunting, cards and dancing than they did of books; added to which there was an undeniable fondness of the people for rum and sugar, the ordinary tippie; all the rough English sports were in vogue; every planter's porch was crowded with yelping fox-hounds; there was also another kind of dog described as "a strong and courageous animal of great modesty," a cross between the Newfoundland and the Irish wolf hound, "which would swim a mile out in the water in the teeth of a November gale and bring to shore a wounded swan, or perish in the attempt." These were the days, he says, of "royal suppers of duck and hominy, two or three ducks to a man, and rum punch, and goblets of fine old Madeira, drawn from the wood, the long clay pipes smoked by the blazing log fires, card parties of whist and all fours and bluff and brag, and to bed long after midnight."

In the beginning the wearing apparel of the man was made of course material, and largely of the skins of bears and other wild animals, but in the course of time these gave way to more pretentious articles patterned after the fashionable attire of England.

“The hat was of felt or wool, with a low crown and broad brim, sometimes, but not always, turned up and cocked. About his neck he wore a white linen stock, fastening with a buckle at the back. His coat was of cloth, broad-backed with flap pockets, and his waistcoat of the same stuff came down to his knees. He wore short breeches with brass or silver knee buckles, red or blue garters, and rather coarse leather shoes strapped over the quarter.”

The houses were of log, chinked with clay; flooring, except that furnished by nature, was unknown; three legged stools and wooden blocks did duty as chairs, the tables were roughly constructed and the table service consisted of wooden bowls, trenchers, platters and noggins, with gourds and squashes and sometimes a few pewter dishes, plates and spoons.

The skins of bears and other wild animals were an acceptable substitute for bed clothes and to a great extent for cloth for wearing apparel and were hung on wooden pegs around the cabins.

In the course of time, and as Tobacco became King, the primitive furniture gave way to more pretentious articles.

Frederick County, at the time Georgetown was created, comprised the territory from Rock Creek along the Potomac to the western boundary of the Province. It was, for the most part, virgin wilderness and seems to have been suffering from a singular combinations of evils: wolves and wild horses. In the year 1750, an act was passed by the Legislature for destroying wolves in the county in which it is recited that they are so numerous and mischievous that “if not timely prevented, they will not only infest that county, but the whole Province,” and about the same time an act was passed “to prevent the

evils occasioned by the multitude of horses, and restraining horse rangers, within the Province, and to redress the great evil accruing to this Province by the multiplicity of useless horses, mares and colts that run in the woods."

COURTS AND LAWYERS.

Although the judicial machinery was set in motion in the colony by acts passed by the Assembly of 1638-39 creating a Court of Admiralty, a County Court, a Court of Chancery, a Court Praetorial, and Justices of the Peace, yet there was long a dearth of legal business and the services of the lawyer were not in demand. A person writing from the colony about the year 1660 says:

"Here, if the lawyer had nothing else to maintain him but his bawling, he might button up his chops and burn his buckram bag, or else hang it upon a pin until its antiquity had eaten it up with dirt and dust; then, with a spade like his grandsire Adam, turn up the face of creation, purchasing his bread by the sweat of his brows, that before was got by the motionated waterworks of his jaws."

In the course of time things seem to have changed for the better, so far as the profession was concerned at least, for in the year 1772 another person writing from the colony said:

"A litigious spirit is very apparent in this country. The assizes are held twice in the year in the City of Annapolis, and the number of cases then brought forward is really incredible."

That the lawyers, however, had become troublesome as early as 1715 is evident from an act passed by the Colonial Assembly in that year "for rectifying the ill

practices of attorneys in this Province." By this act their fees, payable in tobacco, were prescribed, and it was provided that if they should presume to ask, receive, take or demand any greater or larger fee they should be incapable of practicing law in any court of the Province. This law being found to be ineffectual, another one was passed in 1725 for the same purpose. It recited complaints "of the exorbitant fees taken by Counsellors at Law, Chamber Counsellors, Barristers, Attorneys and other Practitioners and Advisers in the law, to the great Damage and Grievance of the good people of this Province and impoverishing of themselves and families." This act again established a scale of fees, and further provided forms of oaths to be taken by lawyer and client before the institution of the suit; the one, that he had not received any greater fee than that allowed by the act; and the other, that he had not paid any such fee.

Eben Cook, gent., visited the Maryland side of the Potomac, on a commercial venture, the results of which were most unsatisfactory to him. He printed in England, in 1708, in verse an account of his experience, in which he gives a description of the tobacco planters and depicts scenes and incidents attending a meeting of the County Court. Mr. Cook, no doubt, found that social conditions were in a crude state, but the feeling of resentment and prejudice which he manifests, is such as to justify the belief that what he says is a gross caricature of the real facts. From his story we extract the following:

"I put myself and Goods a-shoar;
Where soon repaired a numerous Crew,
In Shirts and Drawers of Scotch Cloth Blue,
With neither Stockings, Hat, nor Shooe,
These Sot Weed Planters crowd the Shoar,

In hue as tawny as a Moor;
 Figures so strange, no God designed
 To be a part of Human kind,
 But wanton Nature, void of Rest,
 Moulded the brittle Clay in Jest."

He describes the meeting of the court as follows:

"We sat, like others, on the Ground,
 Carousing Punch in open Air,
 Till Crier, did the Court declare.
 The planting Rabble being met,
 Their drunken Worship likewise sit;
 Crier proclaims that Noise should cease
 And streight the Lawyers broke the peace;
 Wrangling for Plaintiff and Defendant,
 I thought they ne'er would make an End on't;
 With Nonsense, Stuff and false Quotations,
 With brazen Lyes, and Allegations;
 And in the splitting of the Cause,
 They used such Motions with their Paws,
 As showed their Zeal was strongly bent
 In Blood to end the Argument.
 A reverend Judge who to the Shame
 Of all the Bench could write his Name,
 At Petty-fogger took Offense,
 And wondered at his Impudence.
 My Neighbor Dash with Scorn, replies,
 And in the Face of Justice flies.
 The Bench in Fury streight divide,
 And Scribble's take or Judge's side;
 The Jury, Lawyers, and their Clyents,
 Contending, fight like Earth-born Gyants."

In 1717 there was a lawyer in the Province named Macnamara, who was the prosecutor of the suits of the Crown, and such an exceptionally troublesome fellow that a special Act of the Legislature was passed in that year to disbar him from practicing in all other suits than those of the Crown. According to the recitals in the act, he had once been suspended for his misdeeds, but had been restored again upon the late

Queen's order. Claiming that the order exempted him from the application of the powers of the courts, he treated them in an indecent manner when he pleaded before them, despising their authority and even threatening their persons. He is described in the act as "a man of threatening, litigious and revengeful temper," who had at length arrived at "so intolerable a degree of pride and arrogance as even to threaten the Governor"; and it was declared that his insolence had resulted in a declaration by several of the judges that they would no longer continue in their stations if so turbulent a person was allowed to practice before them—

"All of which actions and many others (some whereof he has been convict and others been acquitted from by his management of juries and subtlety in the law) too tedious to enumerate, are of so haughty and daring a nature that the honor of the Government cannot be supported nor the magistrates be safe and easy in the execution of justice, nor the peace of the Province preserved unless some remedy be provided, not only for the discouragement of him, the said Thomas Macnamara, but all others of like demeanor."

A different and more edifying story, in regard to the Maryland lawyer of 1783, is told by an Englishman, who visited Annapolis in that year. He states:

"Annapolis is a nursery of the long robe. Its lawyers would do honor to any bar in Europe. The Governor, who is of this profession, has instituted a society composed of students of the law, who meet at his house at stated periods to discuss law questions and questions in political economy. He proposes the subject, sits as President and gives judgment in conjunction with his Council, the Chancellor and the Judges of the General Court. When the debates are finished the company sup with the Governor. For a country to be

happy the people must be virtuous; to render them so, their leaders ought to set the example and the government to confirm the practice by making it necessary."

Whether Georgetown had arrived at that degree of eminence in good works prior to the year 1772 when the support of a lawyer could be credited to her cannot be determined; but that she was doing her duty in that respect in the year 1773 would seem to be reasonably well established, for among the subscribers to an edition of Blackstone printed in Philadelphia in that year we find the name of Joseph Earle, a Georgetown lawyer. The book was issued in four volumes, and the subscription price a considerable sum, so we may infer that the professional gentleman was fairly prosperous.

THE CORPORATION COURT OR MAYOR'S COURT.

The Mayor's Court of Georgetown was the first court which existed in the present District of Columbia. By the Act of Incorporation of 1789, the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, or any three or more of them, were authorized to hold a court in the town, to be called the Mayor's Court, and to appoint proper officers therefor and settle reasonable fees. The Mayor's Court had the same jurisdiction as to debts that the justices of the peace of the counties of the State had by law. It also had concurrent jurisdiction with the County Court of Montgomery County in all criminal cases except such as affected life or member, if the crime or offence were committed in the town or any of its precincts by any inhabitant of it or by any person not a citizen of the State, and appeals lay from its judgments to the County Court. The Mayor's Court continued in existence from the time of its establishment down to the time when the

town passed under the jurisdiction of the United States as a part of the Federal District. That its sessions were not held with a satisfactory degree of regularity may be inferred from the fact that in the year 1798 the corporation passed an ordinance establishing regular meetings for it.

Prior to the year 1799 the power of granting licenses to ordinary keepers and retailers of spirituous liquors was vested in the County Courts of the different counties of the State; the manner in which the County Court of Montgomery County made such appointments in Georgetown gave offence to the people of the town and in the year 1798 the corporation resolved to present a remonstrance to that court, setting forth the injury and inconvenience arising to the citizens from the indiscriminate way in which tavern licenses had been granted. The complaints were felt at Annapolis, for in 1799, the power of granting such licenses was vested in the Mayor's Court.

The Mayor's Court, after administering justice for twelve years was legislated out of existence by the act of Congress of February 27, 1801, which provided for the establishment of a tribunal with jurisdiction over the whole District, to be called the "Circuit Court of the District of Columbia." The act continued all cases pending before the Corporation Court of Georgetown to the new court.

A DOCTOR'S BILL IN COLONIAL DAYS.

In colonial days the country was sparsely settled, towns were few, and except the centers of trade on the navigable waters, of inconsiderable population. The practice of medicine was attended with many inconveniences. From the necessities of his situation, the practitioner, especially in the remote districts, was

forced to perform the double office of physician and apothecary.

His visits to his patients involved long rides on horseback, over the worst of roads and in all sorts of weather. In his saddle-bags were carried the implements and such an assortment of drugs and medicines as were deemed sufficient for ordinary emergencies.

The country doctor is still a useful and necessary factor in the life of many localities, and those of us who spent our youthful days, or a portion of them, "in the woods" can recall him and the feeling of awe with which he inspired us.

The following bill rendered by one of them, a Maryland practitioner, to his patient in 1767, is an interesting relic of the time:

Mr. James Ogleby To Dr. R. Hulse.

1767.		<i>s. d.</i>
Aug. 15.	Diuretic Mixture	5. 0
	Visit 12 miles.....	15. 0
" 25.	Finest Turkey Rhubarb.....	3. 6
	Vomit	1. 0
	5 Astringent Powders.....	5. 0
	Febrifuge Mixture	5. 6
" 27.	Stomach drops for the vomiting..	2. 6
	6 Astringent Powders.....	6. 0
	Restraining Mixture	5. 6
	Plaster for the vomiting.....	3. 6
	A visit	15. 0
" 29.	Opening Mixture	5. 6
	2 Anadyne Boluses.....	2. 0
	Astringent Mixture ½ pint.....	6. 0
	2 Vomits	2. 0
		£4. 2. 6

Mr. Ogleby:

Agreeable to your request above is your account & I am

confident no Person in the Province administers medicine upon more easy terms than myself as you will find upon mine being compared with any others in the profession.

EARLY SETTLERS AND THE TOBACCO TRADE.

The disturbances in Scotland in 1715 and 1745 tended largely to accelerate the tide of emigration from that country to the shores of the Potomac.

In the year 1751 numerous families, principally Scotch, were settled in this vicinity, and upon the petition of some of the settlers, setting forth that there was a convenient place for a town in Frederick "County, on the Patowmack River, above the mouth of Rock Creek, adjacent to the Inspection House," an act was passed appointing Captain Henry Wright Crabb, Master John Needham, Master John Clagett, Master James Perrie, Master Samuel Magruder, the Third, Master Josias Beall, and Master David Lynn as Commissioners and authorizing them to purchase and lay off into eighty lots, for a town to be called Georgetown, sixty acres, parts of the tracts of land belonging to George Gordon and George Beall. The act provided that if an agreement could not be had with Gordon and Beall as to the value of the land to be taken the same should be determined by a jury of freeholders of the bailiwick.

George Beall was the owner of a tract called the "Rock of Dumbarton," which had been patented in 1703 to his father, Colonel Ninian Beall, and had descended to him under the primogeniture law as the eldest son and heir at law of the latter. Colonel Ninian Beall was a man of note in the Province, for, in 1699, the Colonial Legislature of Maryland passed "an Act of Gratitude" to him "for his services upon all incursions and disturbances of the neighboring Indians" and appropriated seventy-five pounds sterling for the benefit

of himself and family. After obtaining the patent for the "Rock of Dumbarton" he "pitched his tent," according to Balch, in the wilderness about where the building formerly known as the Seminary Building stands at the northeast corner of the streets formerly known as Gay and Washington streets and now known as N and Thirtieth streets, respectively. Balch states that he died at "Fife Largs," one of his estates on the Eastern Branch, at the advanced age of one hundred and seven years. It is probable that Ninian Beall and George Gordon were the first persons to make a settlement at or near the site of Georgetown. Col. George Beall, a grandson of Ninian, was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, in the square bounded by 33d (formerly Market) Street, 34th (formerly Frederick) Street, Q (formerly 4th) Street and R (formerly 5th) Street. The inscription on his tombstone shows that he was born on the site of Georgetown, February 26, 1729, which was 22 years before the town came into existence, and that he died in 1807 in his 79th year.

George Gordon became the owner, in 1734, of a part of "Knave's Disappointment," a tract containing three hundred acres, which had been originally patented to James Smith and which part was thereafter known as George Gordon's "Rock Creek Plantation." He held, at one time, the office of sheriff of Frederick County, and, under the direction of the County Court, set up at Rock Creek that ancient instrument of punishment known as the Stocks. Gordon was one of the Judges of the first County Court of Frederick County.

The "Inspection House" referred to in the act was on the land of Gordon.

In the days of the first settlements on this part of the river, tobacco was the most profitable, and hence became the principal article of produce of the colonists;

owing to the scarcity of money, tobacco usurped its functions as the standard of value and became the great medium of exchange. The public dues and the penalties imposed by the colonial laws were payable in "pounds of tobacco," and even recoveries in the courts against recalcitrant debtors were in the same commodity instead of money. An early English writer calls it the "meat, drink, clothing and money of the colonists." Our District records show that as late as the year 1801 a defendant convicted in the courts of larceny was sentenced to be "pilloried for one-quarter of an hour and to have ten stripes and to pay 360 pounds of tobacco," and that two other persons convicted of the same offense—the stealing of a hog in this instance—were sentenced to "pay four-fold, to wit: 600 pounds of tobacco," to the owner, Robert Peter.

On account of its importance the regulations in regard to its export were very strict and required that previous thereto it should be brought to certain warehouses to be inspected. These warehouses were called "Inspection Houses."

Either on account of the convenience of that method of moving it, or the scarcity of wheeled vehicles, the planters adopted the method of "rolling" the tobacco (that is, putting it in large hogsheads, averaging 1,000 pounds, rigged with an axle and tongue and drawn by horses or men) over the roads to the nearest warehouse. This gave rise to the terms "Rolling Roads" and "Rolling Houses," sometimes applied to such roads and warehouses. In 1763 there was in Frederick County but one place for the inspection of tobacco, and that "at the Rolling House which George Gordon built near the mouth of Rock Creek." Exactly when this house was built does not appear, but it was certainly between the years 1734 and 1748; it was doubtless con-

structed of logs, the most available building material of those primitive days, and was succeeded later by two large buildings of brick. Its site on the original map of Georgetown is marked "The Warehouse Lot" and is now occupied by buildings of the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company, on the south side of M Street a little to the west of Wisconsin Avenue.

The inspection houses naturally became centers of trade, and the "Inspection House" or "Rolling House" which George Gordon built was the germ of the future city.

The tobacco business of Georgetown grew rapidly and ultimately assumed such proportions that three large warehouses were required to accommodate it; we have the authority of General Washington for the statement that in the year 1791 it ranked as the greatest tobacco market in the State, if not in the Union.

There is to the historian a discouraging lack of specific details as to the Potomac trade in colonial days, but the following copy of a bill of lading issued in the year 1773 preserves the name of one vessel that was then engaged in it and that of her commander, and the quaint character of its phraseology gives it an interest as a type of the kind then in vogue.

"Shipped by the Grace of God, in good order and well conditioned by William Lee in and upon the good ship called the Friendship, whereof is Master unto God for the present Voyage, William Roman, and now riding at Anchor in the River Thames and by God's Grace bound for Virginia, to say one case, One Trunk, one Box of Merchandise, being marked and numbered as in the margin and are to be delivered in like good order and well conditioned at the aforesaid Port of Virginia (the danger of the sea only excepted) unto Mrs. Anna Washington at Pope's Creek, Potomak River or to her assigns. Freight for the said goods being paid with Primage and Average accustomed.

"In witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirmed to three Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date, the one of which three Bills being accomplished the other two to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port of Safety—Amen.

"Dated at London 24 Dec. 1773.

"WM. ROMAN."

There was another form of bill of lading in use from which the name of the Deity was omitted. A Georgetown business man who had both on hand rather irreverently advertised the fact that he had for sale bills of lading "with or without the grace of God."

SAW PIT LANDING AT THE MOUTH OF ROCK CREEK.

As early as 1703 there was a landing on the Georgetown side of Rock Creek where it entered the Potomac, called "Saw Pit Landing"; this landing shows that the place had then some importance as a trading post, and the utility of Rock Creek for the purposes of commerce is shown by the fact that as late as the year 1792 the Maryland Legislature passed an act to preserve its navigation.

By this act the making of weirs and hedges in and upon the creek within the distance of two miles from the Potomac was prohibited under a penalty, and those already made were declared nuisances which any person was at liberty to pull down and destroy. Saw Pit Landing formed the southeastern corner of Georgetown, and, although the point is now far inland, in the year 1751, and for many years thereafter, the tide ebbed and flowed to it.

The mouth of the Rock Creek of our day does not exhibit a single feature of its appearance in the year 1751, when Georgetown was created; at that time the

creek was a navigable stream within which the tide ebbed and flowed for a considerable distance above the present P Street bridge; then, and for many years subsequently, there was visible in it, on frequent occasions, the tall masts of the trader to European or coastwise ports, where now the only water craft to be seen is the sand scow.

The creek at its junction with the river formed quite a large bay; its mouth extended from the point near the old Observatory grounds, where Littlefield's Wharf is located (which point was first known as Cedar Point, and afterwards, successively, as Windmill Point, Peter's Point and Easby's Point), to a point on the present Water Street, east of and near its intersection with Wisconsin Avenue, which was formerly known as High Street, and later as Thirty-second Street.

All of the ground south of the present Water Street and much of the ground north of it, from the latter point eastward has been reclaimed from the creek and river. There has also been a considerable reclamation of land on the Washington side of the creek, but not so great as on the Georgetown side. With reference to the present situation, the westerly or Georgetown line of the creek, as it formerly existed and as it was located on a plat based on early records and prepared for me some years ago by Mr. William Forsyth, the Surveyor of the District, may be roughly described as beginning at a point on the river slightly to the east of the place where the east line of High Street (now Wisconsin Avenue) intersects it, and thence running in a northeasterly direction, crossing the south line of Water Street, about midway between High and Congress (now Thirty-first) streets, thence across Water Street and through the southeastern part of the square between High and Congress streets, cutting off

a small corner of it, and striking the west line of Congress Street a short distance above Water Street; thence crossing Congress Street and entering the square between Congress and Jefferson streets, and passing through it and striking the west line of Jefferson Street at a point still farther north of Water Street; thence crossing Jefferson Street and entering the square between Jefferson and Washington (now Thirtieth) streets, and striking the west line of Washington Street at a point still farther north of Water Street, and entering the square between Washington and Greene (now Twenty-ninth) streets, striking a point on the west line of Greene Street still farther north of Water Street and nearer to the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal than to Water Street; thence across Greene Street and through the square between Greene Street and the canal basin, and to a point near where Montgomery (now Twenty-eighth) Street terminates at the basin; and thence, still in a northeasterly direction, considerably to the west of the basin, and to the creek at a point above that at which Bridge (now M) Street meets it. Neither Washington Street nor any of the streets between it and Rock Creek were in the original town.

It will thus be seen that a large portion of the squares fronting on the north side of Water Street between Greene and Congress streets, and the southeastern corner of the square between Congress and High streets, were then under water, as was also that portion of Water Street itself eastward of the line which I have indicated, together with the sites of all the warehouses, wharves, lumber yards, etc., extending from a point of beginning near Wisconsin Avenue, along the river front to the lock at the present mouth of the creek or basin.

The high bluff which extended along the line, as well as along the river shore, above it, is still indicated by the steep grades of the streets extending from M to Water Street.

THE ORIGINAL SURVEY AND PLAN OF THE TOWN.

The survey of the sixty acres into eighty lots was made by Alexander Beall, whom the commissioners had elected as clerk and appointed as surveyor, and application was made to Gordon and Beall for the purchase of the land. As they refused to sell upon what were considered by the commissioners reasonable terms, a warrant was issued to Josias Beall, the coroner, to summon a jury of seventeen to meet at the Inspection House above the mouth of Rock Creek on the twenty-eighth day of September, 1751, to assess the value of the same. The jury made a return awarding to Gordon and Beall £280 currency as the value of their land. There was included in the town 26 11/16 acres of Gordon's land and 33 5/16 acres of Beall's land.

The eastern boundary line of the town originally was a line running parallel with the present Thirtieth Street (formerly Washington Street), and distant westerly from it 120 feet; the northern boundary was a line parallel with the present M Street (formerly Bridge Street), 120 feet south of the present south line of N Street (formerly, in part First and in part Gay Street).

Beall's Additions, Beatty and Hawkins' Addition, Peter, Beatty, Threlkeld and Deakins' Addition, Threlkeld's Addition, and Deakins, Lee and Casenave's Addition, Holmead's Addition and the Western Addition were added at various times subsequently.

On the original plat of the town, prepared by Beall, the street along the river has three names. The part of it between the present Thirty-first Street and the

present Wisconsin Avenue is designated "Wapping." From the river "Wapping" ran in a northeasterly direction, a course different from the present Water Street, which is east and west. The part between the present Wisconsin Avenue and the present Thirty-third Street is designated as "The Keys," and the part extending from this point to the western boundary of the town is designated as "West Landing." When the construction of a bridge over the creek at K Street was proposed, a fill for a street to connect with it was made through the water and which extended to Peter Casenave's stone warehouse which faced the river at or near the southeast corner of the present Wisconsin Avenue; the name of the street along the river was then changed to Causeway Street, and still later to Water Street, its present name.

There was but one east and west street shown on the plan, north of the one along the river front, and this had two names. The part of it east of Wisconsin Avenue is designated as "Bridge Street" and the part of it west of Wisconsin Avenue is designated as "Falls Street." Later the name of Bridge Street was given to the street designated in part as "Bridge Street" and in part as "Falls Street." When Georgetown became a part of the city of Washington the name of Bridge Street was changed to that of M Street. There are three north and south streets shown on the plan, the ones now known respectively as Thirty-first Street, Wisconsin Avenue and Thirty-third Street. That part of Thirty-first Street which lies north of M Street is designated as "East Lane," and the part which lies south of it is designated as "Fishing Lane." The name of Congress Street was subsequently given to "East Lane" and "Fishing Lane," and when Georgetown became a part of the city of Washington the name

of Congress Street was changed to Thirty-first Street. The part of Wisconsin Avenue which lies north of M Street is designated on the plan as "High Street," and the part which lies south of it, as "Water Street." Later the name of High Street was given to the whole street, and it was so known until the town became part of the city of Washington, when the name was changed to Thirty-second Street; later still this name was changed to Wisconsin Avenue.

The part of Thirty-third Street which lies north of M Street is designated on the plan as "West Lane," and the part lying south of it as "Duck Lane."

By an ordinance of the Corporation of Georgetown, passed April 13, 1818, the name of the street known as West Lane and Duck Lane was changed to Market Street. By the same ordinance many of the changes, above mentioned, in the names of the original streets were effected. Market Street became Thirty-third Street when Georgetown was made a part of Washington.

The squares or blocks between the streets having been laid off into lots, Beall and Gordon, the original proprietors of the land, were notified to appear and make choice of two lots, a privilege which was allowed them by the act providing for the establishment of the town. Gordon appeared and made selection, but Beall did not, whereupon he was notified that, unless he did so within the ten days, limited by the act, the lots would be disposed of and that he would have only himself to blame for the consequences. To this notice Mr. Beall, who seems to have been thoroughly dissatisfied with the proceedings of the commissioners, made the following response under date of March 7, 1752, which is preserved upon the town records:

"If I must part with my property by force, I had better save a little, than be totally demolished. Rather than have none I accept of the lots, said to be Mr. Henderson's and Mr. Edmonston's, but I do hereby protest and declare that my acceptance of the said lots which is by force, shall not debar me from future redress from the Commissioners or others. If I can have the right of a British subject I ask no more. God save King George."

On March 8, 1752, a sale of lots was had which realized £191 and this was paid to Gordon and Beall. When Mr. Beall received the money, the commissioners, who had been much exercised over his threatening attitude gave vent to their feelings of relief by a somewhat argumentative entry in the Register of their proceedings to the effect that by such receipt "the said George Gordon and George Beall have verbally Remised and Released the said Commissioners from all sums of Money, Claim, Damage, Recompense and Demands whatsoever, they ever had, now, or may hereafter have for any Sum or Sums of Money due to him or them for any Lot or Lots so sold or any matter, cause or thing relative thereto."

ERECTION OF THE TOWN WHARF.

The sale of the lots in the town under the Act of 1751 was coupled with certain requirements as to the erection upon them of buildings of specified dimensions by the purchasers within a limited time, and that considerable progress had been made in growth by the town in the first eleven years of its existence is evidenced by the letting of a contract to Simon Nichols by the commissioners on October 5, 1762, for the erection of a wharf at the foot of Water Street, as that portion of Wisconsin Avenue between M Street and the present

Water Street was then called. As this is the first wharf in the District of Columbia of which we have any detailed record, the specifications, as a matter of antiquarian interest, are given in full:

“The said wharf is to be built at the end of Water Street and carried from thence 60 feet wide into the river so as to have 10 foot of water at the front in a low tide; the outsides are to be of hewed logges, 12 inches thick Laped and the Joints broke, braced and girded with hewed logges 10 inches thick and 15 foot long and dovetailed into the outsides. The front to be dovetailed at the outsides and the end of every dovetail to be sawed off. The distance from the front to the first brace not to exceed 10 feet and the distance between every brace the same for the whole length of the wharf, the same to be filled up with stone within two feet of the wharf one foot of which is to be filled with clay or dirt, the other foot with gravel and to be raised three feet higher than a full tide. Every part of the work to be done in the strongest manner, and to the satisfaction of the workmen indifferently chosen, if any dispute should happen when the work is finished.

“The said work is to be completely finished by the first day of September which shall be in the year 1763. One fourth of the money agreed for (being L 200 to be paid in dollars at 7/6 pistolls at 27s. or Pennsylvania Currency) to be paid in hand, one fourth to be paid when all the timber for the wooden part of the wharf is brought in place, the other half at the finishing of the whole work. Security to be given by the undertaker to the Commissioners before the payment of the first fourth.

“N. B. There is to be a good and sufficient crane erected at the front of the wharf.”

Upon the completion of the wharf Mr. John Clagett was the only commissioner who thought it had not been done according to contract, thereupon choice was

made of Messrs. John Orme and Archibald Allen "esteemed good workmen to view the same whose opinion was to be agreed to"; they decided that the work had been sufficiently done according to contract.

FAIRS IN THE TOWN.

By the Act of 1751 for the laying out of the town, it was provided that it should be lawful for the commissioners of the town to appoint two fairs to be held therein annually: the one to begin on the second Thursday in April, and the other on the first Thursday in October, which fairs should be held for the space of three days, and that during the continuance of such fair or fairs all persons within the bounds of the town should be privileged and free from arrest, except for felony or breach of the peace, and all persons coming to such fair or fairs or returning therefrom, should have the like privilege one day before and one day on their return therefrom; and the commissioners were empowered to make such rules for the holding of the fairs as might tend to prevent disorder and inconvenience, and to the improvement and regulation of the town in general.

As we have seen, there was a large preponderance of Scotia's sons among the inhabitants of the town, and it is quite likely that these Scotch forefathers of the hamlet in holding the fairs at Georgetown provided for by the act did so according to the customs in similar cases in the old country. We may well imagine the town bailiff, when the multitude had assembled, following the style in the old country and opening the fair by a proclamation like the following:

"O yes! and that's e'e time; O yes! and that's twa times. O yes! and that's theird and last time; all manner of Pearson

and Pearsons whatsoe'r, let'um draw near, and I shall let them kenn, that there is a fair to be held at the muckle town of George for the space of three days; wherein if any Hustrin, Custrin, Land Louper, Dub Skouper, or Gang the Gate Swinger, shall breed any Urdam, Durdam, Rabblement, Brabblement, or Squabblement, he shall have his lugs tacked to the muckle Trone, with a nail of twal a Penny, until he is down of his Hobshanks, and up with his muckle Doaps, and prays to Hea'n neen times. God bless the King and thrice the muckle town of George, paying a Groat to me, Jemmy Ferguson, Bailly of the aforesaid town. So you have heard my proclamation and I'll haam to my Danner."

The race-track was an established institution in the town in 1769. On April 10 of that year a notice was published that on May 30 there would be a race for a subscription purse of £25, free to any horse, mare or gelding, the best two of three heats of two miles each. If rising four years every animal was to carry 8 stone and 4 pounds, bridle and saddle included; if five years, 9 stone; if six years, 9 stone and 8 pounds; and if seven years, 10 stone. An entrance fee of 25s. and satisfactory vouchers as to age to be required. And on the following day, a race for the balance of the subscription money and entrance fees, free to any horse, mare or gelding, those running in the race of the previous day only excepted. In the second day's race every horse 14 hands high was to carry 8 stone and 4 pounds, bridle and saddle included, and others to rise or fall according to the rules of racing. The horses were to be entered on the day preceding each race with Messrs. Joseph Bell, John Orme or Cornelius Davise.

The fair and horse-race were doubtless contemporaneous events in that day, as they are in this, in the agricultural districts.

The first agricultural fair, so called, held in the United States, took place at Georgetown in the year 1810.

BRADDOCK'S EXPEDITION.

Alexander Beall, the clerk and surveyor of the town, resigned in 1757. Two years previously he had accepted a captain's commission in the Maryland Provincials, which had been raised for service against the Indians and the French. Beall had paid but little attention to his duties as clerk, and had made so many errors in his survey of the town that the Commissioners in 1758 entered into a contract with John Frederick Augustus Prigg, surveyor of Prince George's County, to correct the same. The Commissioners also agreed with Archibald Orme, for himself and two men, "to carry the chain and pole and whatever else the surveyor thinks necessary," for which he was to be paid eleven shillings per day and "to find himself and men in diet and lodging, and to attend the surveyor between sunrise and sunset of each day."

Military life was more congenial to Beall than following the dull paths of peace in the quiet town, and on October 23, 1755, he left Georgetown for the frontier in command of a company of which Samuel Wade Magruder was lieutenant.

In the month of April, 1755, the town was treated to its first sight of a British red-coat. During the previous month seventeen transports and two ordnance ships, under the convoy of two men-of-war—the *Sea Horse* and *Nightingale*—arrived at Alexandria, having on board two regiments of infantry—the 44th, under the command of Colonel Sir Peter Halkett, and the 48th, under Colonel Thomas Dunbar, each 500 strong. These were to be recruited to 700 after their

arrival in Virginia, and with two other regiments of a thousand men each, to be raised in America, were to constitute a force under the command of General Sir Edward Braddock, which was to dislodge the French and drive them from the country west of the Alleghanies. One of these regiments—that of Sir Peter Halkett—marched from Alexandria for Fort Cumberland, the site of the present city of that name, through a gap in the Blue Ridge and by way of Winchester, in the Valley of Virginia, to its destination. The other—that under command of Colonel Dunbar—marched from Alexandria to a point opposite Georgetown, from which the men were ferried across the river and took the road from Georgetown to Fredericktown, Maryland. The baggage of this portion of the force was brought up the river by boats. From Fort Cumberland the expedition was to march to the junction of the Ohio and Monongahela rivers, where the City of Pittsburg now stands and where the French had erected Fort Duquesne, named for the French Governor General of Canada.

On the berme bank of the canal, just south of the Observatory Grounds, there is a rock called “Braddock’s Rock” from a tradition that the force of the general landed at this place. Although this tradition is not well founded, as is shown by the orderly books of General Braddock, which were published in Lowdermilk’s *History of Cumberland*, and which give the line of march of both regiments in their different routes to the common point at Fort Cumberland, yet this rock is historic. Before the day of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal it was a large and bold projection into the river, and about it the river was particularly deep. From the fact that it afforded an excellent landing place it became known in early days

as "The Key of all Keys," a corruption of "The Quay of all Quays." When the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was constructed through this part of Washington, the tow path bank was filled in through the water of the river, and, in order to make it, it became necessary to blast and remove a large portion of this rock. During the administration of the early commissioners of the City of Washington large quantities of stone were quarried from this place and used in the construction of the public buildings.

That General Braddock's force did not land at this place is also evident from the fact that the mouth of Rock Creek in those days was a very considerable body of water, and the point to which they wished to get, being the road from Georgetown leading to Fredericktown, Maryland, a landing on the east side of Rock Creek would have involved the unnecessary trouble of the crossing of another body of water—that is, the creek itself.

ROBERT PETER AND THOMAS RICHARDSON, MERCHANTS.
TROUBLES OVER THE FERRY, THE STAMP ACT AND
THE IMPORTATION OF TEA.

Under the act for establishing the town, the Commissioners were authorized to fill vacancies in their number occurring by death or otherwise. On November 11, 1757, Robert Peter was chosen to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Josias Beall, who was selected as Clerk in the place of Alexander Beall, who had previously resigned from that position.

Although not the very first man to engage in merchandising in Georgetown, Robert Peter was among the first to so engage, and may well be considered as entitled to the historical distinction of having been Georgetown's pioneer business man, for the business

places that existed at the time of his arrival were insignificant.

He was born in Scotland in 1726 and came to Georgetown shortly after his arrival at manhood. He embarked in business in Georgetown about the year 1752. "Robert Peter's Rock Creek store" soon became the principal establishment in that section and was well known to the leading English and Scotch merchants of the day. He was the agent of the famous firm of John Glassford & Co., of North Britain, which monopolized in large part the Potomac River tobacco trade.

This firm at the first sale of lots in the town purchased a lot fronting on the north side of the street along the margin of the river, called "The Keys" (known now as Water Street) and about 250 feet west of what is now called Wisconsin Avenue, and erected upon it a storehouse. Mr. Peter was a member of the Board of Commissioners to whom the management of the affairs of the town had been committed by the Act of Assembly of 1751, for thirty-two years, and was the first mayor of the city upon its incorporation in the year 1789.

He had a very prosperous career and invested largely in lands in Frederick, Montgomery (which was created in 1776 out of a part of Frederick), Prince George's and other counties of Maryland. He lived to see the foundation of the City of Washington laid and was the owner of a large portion of the land which was included within the limits of the Federal City.

Scharf, the Maryland historian, says that Robert Peter, like most of the tobacco merchants of Georgetown and Blandensburg, was a Tory during the Revolutionary War. The following extracts from a letter dated at Georgetown, October 16, 1776, written by

Mr. Peter and Thomas Richardson to Thomas Johnson as the representative of Frederick County in the Revolutionary Convention at Annapolis, disproves this statement and illustrates Georgetown's first embarrassment in the matter of communication with her neighbors in Virginia.

"We presume to address you as a member of our Convention in a matter which we think of the first importance in these times when despatch at ferries is so very necessary."

The letter then proceeds to state that in Virginia ferries were regulated by law, while in Maryland they were not, which was the occasion, as the writers apprehended, of the evils of which they complained; that Colonel George Mason's ferry was established under the Virginia law; that Georgetown also had a ferry, but that Colonel Mason's tenants threatened a suit for presuming to land in Virginia, "so that we are to reap no advantage from our situation on the river, which is wholly claimed by the State of Virginia"; the letter then further proceeds to state that the Georgetown ferryman had been arrested on the Virginia side of the river and taken to Fairfax County jail after having been inveigled into ferrying the sheriff over and landing to collect his fee; all of which the writers thought was concocted "with a design to prevent Maryland from having any ferry over the river at all." They submit the matter of right involved, for future action, and add, "yet when despatch at ferries is at this time so vastly necessary for the post and for troops that may have occasion to pass, as well as for private travellers, we hope for immediate relief as to our ferryman, so far as it may be thought proper by your Convention, for it is notorious that unless he is released our passage over the Potomac

to the southward or northward will be very much obstructed—the Virginia ferryman having no boats, or at least not a sufficient number for our purposes.”

Thomas Johnson, to whom the letter was addressed, was not a member of the Convention, as the writers supposed, but he was the representative of Frederick County in the “Council of Safety” formed in the colony, by which the Convention was called. It was a body of almost equal importance and had charge of affairs while the Convention was not in session. Mr. Johnson transmitted the letter to the Convention and the writers, together with John House, the ferryman, were summoned to attend and appeared before the Convention and their depositions were taken by a committee of that body. What further action, if any, was taken in regard to the matter does not appear, but the State of Maryland, after its formation, passed an act (in 1781) giving authority to the various county courts to issue licenses and prescribe rates of ferriage.

An interesting incident in the life of Mr. Peter, in which his conduct was eminently patriotic, grew out of the importation of certain tea by him a short time prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

The news of the blockade of the Port of Boston under the Port Bill and of the “Tea Trouble” at that place, and of the proceedings had in the Massachusetts Colony, created great excitement in Maryland, in which the right of England to impose taxes in America for the purpose of raising revenue had been strongly denied and its exercise constantly opposed.

At a meeting of the freemen of Frederick County, held at Charles Hungerford’s tavern (Rockville) on June 11, 1774, it was resolved that the town of Boston was suffering in the common cause of America, and that the most effective means for securing American

freedom and the repeal of the obnoxious Acts of Parliament relating to the colonies was to break off communication with Great Britain. A non-importation agreement was generally signed, which was enforced relentlessly.

The brigantine "Mary and Jane," Captain John Chapman, master, arrived in the Potomac in August, 1774, and, having made a landing in the Wicomoco, it was ascertained that she had on board several chests of tea, consigned to Robert Peter and others in the Province; information of this having been communicated to the Committee of Correspondence for Frederick County, that committee immediately met to deliberate what measures should be adopted "on the alarming occasion," as it was called.

Mr. Peter, who had been requested to attend, acknowledged that the tea was shipped in consequence of orders given by him the previous December; that he had relied on the custom which had constantly prevailed in the Province since the partial repeal of the Revenue Act to screen him from censure and to justify his procedure; at the same time he submitted to the sentiment of the committee and declared an entire willingness to abide by their determination.

The committee unanimously resolved "that the importation of any commodity from Great Britain liable for the payment of a duty imposed by an Act of Parliament, however sanctioned by the practice of a part or even the whole of the trading part of the community, is in a high degree dangerous to our liberties; as it implies a full assent to the claim asserted by the British Parliament of a right to impose taxes for the purpose of raising a revenue in America." Therefore, in order to discourage the pernicious practice, they "judged it expedient that the tea in question should

not be landed in America, but that it should be sent back in the same ship."

Mr. Peter readily acquiesced in the judgment of the committee and promised to prevent a delivery if it had not already been made. He intimated a desire that in the latter event it should be stored by any gentlemen appointed by the committee; who thereupon resolved that if the tea had been landed it should be delivered to Messrs. Thomas Johns, William Deakins and Bernard O'Neale. Mr. Peter assented and, according to the chronicle, "pawned his honor for the faithful performance of his engagement." He was then dismissed with the thanks of the committee for his candid and disinterested behavior.

Thomas Richardson, another Georgetown merchant, had just received a quantity of tea from Philadelphia, and, being sent for, stated that he was ready and willing to deliver it to any person whom the committee should appoint, to be safely stored until further deliberation. The committee accepted his proposition, highly commended his conduct, and the tea was delivered to the same persons appointed to receive that of Mr. Peter.

The women of Frederick County were as determined as the men in regard to the non-use of tea. After the beginning of hostilities, one of them wrote:

"We have resolved to drink no more tea for years to come—not until the war is ended; but we will eat mush and milk, drink water and live frugally until our fathers, sons and husbands and brothers achieve a brave victory."

The destruction of the tea in Boston Harbor in 1774, by a party of men disguised as Indians is in every primer of American history; but the still bolder act of the Marylanders in the destruction of tea at Annapolis is comparatively unknown.

In the month of October, 1774, the brig "Peggy Stewart," Captain Jackson, arrived at Annapolis, having on board 2,320 pounds of what the chronicles of the time describe as "that detestable weed" tea, consigned to a company of merchants in that city. Upon learning of its arrival, the Committee of Anne Arundel County called a meeting of the inhabitants. The deputy collector and the captain of the ship being present, the question was moved and seconded whether the tea should be landed in America or not; it was unanimously determined in the negative and a committee of twelve persons was appointed to prevent the landing of that part of the cargo.

The meeting adjourned for a few days and in consequence of a more general distribution of notices, when it met again the number of those in attendance was greatly increased. The consignees were called before the committee and an offer to destroy the tea was made by them; the committee reported this to the meeting, with a statement of their opinion that if the tea was destroyed by the voluntary act of the owners and proper concessions made, nothing further should be required. This not being satisfactory to all present, Mr. Stewart, one of the firm, voluntarily offered to burn the vessel and the tea in her, and that all proper acknowledgments should be made and published in the Maryland Gazette. The acknowledgment was unique and of the most abject character. The consignees severally signed a paper acknowledging that they had committed "a most daring insult and act of the most pernicious tendency to the liberties of America," humbly asked for pardon for the offense and declared that in the future they would never "infringe any resolution of the people for the salvation of their rights, nor do any act injurious to the liberties of the people." The acknowledgment concluded as follows:

"And to show our desire of living in amity with the friends of America, we do request this meeting, or as many as do choose to attend, to be present at any place where the people shall appoint, and we will there consign to the flames or otherwise destroy as the people may choose, the detestable article which has been the cause of this, our misconduct."

After signing this agreement, the owners of the tea went on board the vessel, her sails being set and her colors flying, and set fire to the tea, which, with the vessel, was consumed in a few hours, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators.

"An enemy of the cause of America" stigmatized the above proceeding as a "riot," and intimated that Mr. Stewart, one of the firm, had excited animosities by his spirited protest against the adoption at the first public meeting held in Annapolis after the passage of the Boston Port Bill of a resolution, among others, of a retaliatory kind—"that the gentlemen of the law in the Province should decline bringing action for debts due to persons in Great Britain"; that his enemies had stirred up the populace against him, and that the people were so inflamed that they threatened death to him and destruction to his store and dwelling house, and that Mr. Stewart's "voluntary act" in setting fire to the ship was all that saved him, if not from the death and destruction threatened, at least from tar and feathers; and he lamented that the civil power at the capital of Maryland and the residence of the Governor was "unable to cope with or curb the fury of an exasperated people."

The passage by the British Parliament of the Stamp Act in March, 1765, excited great indignation in Maryland. In August of that year Zachariah Hood, who had been appointed by the British Ministry as the Stamp Distributor for Maryland, was burned in effigy

by the people of Fredericktown. The County Court of Frederick County on the fifteenth of November, 1765, declared its unanimous opinion to be "that all proceedings shall be valid and effectual without the use of stamps." The clerk of the court, who feared to issue writs without the stamped paper, refused to comply with the order of the court; whereupon he was committed by the court for contempt.

The Sons of Liberty publicly paraded and held a mock funeral, in which was carried a coffin with the inscription "The Stamp Act; Expired of a mortal stab received from the Genius of Liberty in Frederick County Court 22 November, 1765; Age 22 days."

EARLY HOPES OF COMMERCIAL GREATNESS.

The situation at the town at the head of navigation, on one of the noblest rivers of the world, which penetrated far into the interior of the continent, and the unsurpassed water power at her very doors, coupled with other natural advantages, justified the faith entertained at an early period in her history by her people—and which has been cherished by the generations who have succeeded them—that she was destined to become the seat of an extensive commerce and of large manufacturing enterprises. Imbued deeply with this idea, her efforts to remove impediments to trade and intercourse with the country surrounding her and to improve her business facilities, have been energetic and unremitting; so long as she possessed the power of individual municipal action she never hesitated to spend her funds liberally for the accomplishment of these objects. She extended her favor and practical aid to every project and to every enterprise which promised to promote the welfare of her citizens, whether it had for its object the purchase of a toll bridge, or

toll road, the improvement of the navigation of the river, in which her outlays of money borrowed for the purpose and interest thereon amounted to upwards of \$170,000, the opening of some new channel of communication with the country around her, or the exemption from taxation of a manufacturing enterprise. That her ambitious dreams have not been realized and that she has lost the rank and commercial eminence she had once attained and held as a seaport town is to be attributed to the perversity of that fate which disappoints the best grounded hopes and expectations of men, rather than to any lack of enterprise, or energy, on the part of her people.

Prior to the year 1774 the possibility of improving the navigation of the Potomac to a point convenient to the western rivers had been suggested.

General Washington, who had spent his youth and early manhood in the valley of the Potomac and who had acquired a thorough familiarity with it through hunting expeditions, surveys for Lord Fairfax, and in the military service of the colony of Virginia, which latter took him across the mountains to the Ohio on several occasions, become convinced at an early day of the feasibility of such improvement by the construction of canals around the various falls, and of its necessity from a military as well as a commercial point of view as a protection to British interests in the territory west of the mountains against the encroachments of the French, then in possession of Canada. He sought to enlist the Provinces of Maryland and Virginia in the scheme long prior to the Revolutionary War.

In 1770 he wrote to the Governor of Maryland, saying:

“There is the strongest speculative proof in the world to me of the immense advantages which Virginia and Maryland

might derive (and at a very small expense) by making the Potomac the channel of commerce between Great Britain and that immense territory; a tract of country which is unfolding to our view, the advantages of which are too great and too obvious, I should think, to become the subjects of serious debate, but which through ill-timed parsimony and supineness may be wrested from us and conducted through other channels."

His efforts were unavailing. The jealousy of Central Virginia in favor of the James River route militated against the Potomac scheme, while in Maryland the jealousies of Georgetown and Baltimore for the western trade had grown up and what was attempted to be accomplished by one in the way of legislative action was opposed and counteracted by the other.

Although unsuccessful in securing concerted action between the two colonies, Washington procured the passage, in 1772, of an Act by the Virginia Assembly, for the formation of a company, with authority "to cut, support and repair, such canals, locks and other works" as might be necessary for "the expansion of the navigation of the Potomac River from tide water to Fort Cumberland." In aid of the enterprise a lottery was authorized and Patrick Henry, Robert Carter Nicholas, Peyton Randolph, Richard Bland, Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley, William Nelson, William Byrd, John Page, Benjamin Waller, Charles Carter of Shirley, Archibald Cary, George Wythe and John Blair were named, by the Act, as managers of it.

In the year 1772 John Ballendine, the owner of a tract called Amsterdam at the Little Falls, submitted to the English merchants a plan and proposals for the improvement of the navigation of the Potomac above tide-water by which he proposed to make the river navigable and not to ask any recompense from them until

the Colonial Governors of Maryland and Virginia had certified that he had satisfactorily accomplished what he proposed doing in this way. He sought local aid, and a subscription paper was circulated in Georgetown and elsewhere in the Province which was signed by several persons, and which, with the signatures, is as follows:

"We, the subscribers, have considered John Ballendine's plan and proposals for clearing Patowmac River and do approve it; to enable him to set about that useful and necessary undertaking do hereby agree and promise severally to contribute such assistance or pay such sums as we respectively subscribe to the trustees named in the said proposals, or to their order, at such times and places and in such proportions as shall be required for the purpose of clearing said river.

"Witness our hands this 10th day of October 1774.

"N. B. As nothing effectual can be properly done for less than thirty thousand pounds, this subscription is not binding unless the value of thirty thousand pounds Pennsylvania currency should be subscribed.

"G. Washington, 500 pounds, Virginia Currency.

"Ralph Wormley, 500 pounds Virginia Currency.

"Th. Johnson, Jr., for self and Mr. L. Jacques, 400 pounds, Pa. Currency.

"George Plaix 300 pounds, currency.

"T. Ridout, 200 " "

"Daniel Dulaney's son, Walter £200, currency.

"David Ross for the Fredericksburg Company, 500 pounds Pa. Currency.

"David Ross for himself, 300 pounds Pa. Currency.

"Daniel and Samuel Hughes, 500 pounds Pa. Currency.

"Benjamin Dulaney, 500 pounds, Pa. Money.

"Thomas Ringgold, 1,000 pounds, Pa. Currency.

"W. Ellzey, 100 pounds.

"Jonas Clapham, 100 pounds, Virginia Currency.

"William Deakins, Jr., 100 pounds—dollars at 7s. 6d.

- “Joseph Chapline, 50 pounds, common current money.
- “Thomas Richardson, 50 pounds, Pa. Currency.
- “Thomas Johns, 50 pounds, common current money.
- “Adam Stephen, 200 pounds, Pa. Currency.
- “Robert and Thomas Rutherford, 100 pounds, Pa. Currency.
- “Francis Deakins, 100 pounds, common Currency of Maryland.
- “Ch. Carroll of Carrollton, one thousand pounds—dollars at 7s. 6d.”

Nothing was accomplished under the Virginia Act of 1772 or under the proposals of Ballentine, and this was due, doubtless, to the disturbed condition of affairs caused by the Revolutionary War.

After the Revolutionary War a more favorable temper was developed in Virginia, but the merchants of Baltimore were powerful in that day as in this, with the Legislature in opposition to any measure which it was supposed would attract trade to any other market or not tend, directly or indirectly, to advance its interests.

After the proclamation of peace, Washington made a tour of the western parts of New England and New York and traversed the country at the head of the Eastern Branch of the Susquehanna and his mind reverted to the scheme of former years. He became more convinced of the advantages of the Potomac route and he addressed himself with renewed vigor to the effort of making the Potomac the channel for the conveyance of the extensive and valuable trade of the “rising empire,” as he called the country west of the mountains. He wrote letters to the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and to members of Congress urging the importance of action. In a letter to Jefferson, after adverting to the measures that would be

unquestionably taken by New York and Pennsylvania to acquire and keep the trade of the western country, he says:

“I am not for discouraging the people of any state from drawing the commerce of the Western country to its seaports—the more communications we open to it the closer we bind that rising world (for indeed it may be so called) to our interests and the greater strength we acquire by it. Those to whom nature affords the best communication will, if they are wise, enjoy the greatest part of the trade. All I would be understood to mean, therefore, is that the gifts of Providence may not be neglected.”

The recommendations of the successful general of the Revolution received more attention than had been bestowed upon those of the Fairfax County surveyor, and his efforts resulted in the incorporation of the Potomac Company by the two states in 1784, with authority to improve the navigation of the river, to charge tolls, etc. General Washington became president of the company, which was the pioneer work of magnitude in the United States in the line of internal improvement enterprises.

The citizens of Georgetown, appreciating the importance of the enterprise to them, subscribed liberally to the stock of the company.

After years of toilsome work and the expenditure of three quarters of a million of dollars in digging canals around the Little Falls, the Great Falls and other places and removing obstructions, the company succeeded in establishing an uncertain sort of navigation for gondolas and keel boats, as they were called; the burthen of the boats averaging from ten to twenty tons. The gondola was a roughly-constructed open boat and when it arrived at its destination on tide-water, was sold after

the cargo had been removed. The keel boat was more costly and pretentious, being fitted up with cabins and conveniences and would return with a light freight. It seems difficult to realize in this day of splendid transportation facilities by steamboat and railroad that the return trip against the current was accomplished by "poling," assisted by iron rings placed in the rocks along the bank at regular distances, and by the device called "a Yankee windlass" at others.

One of the men who thus navigated the river, the elder Dickey, at the Great Falls on the Virginia side of the river, was alive at an advanced age a few years ago. He told me that the "poling" of the boats up the Potomac "was the hardest work ever done by man."

While it was used 1,211,903 barrels of flour and 42,456 barrels of whiskey, among other articles, were brought to tide-water, realizing \$238,117.66 in tolls. The value of this merchandise was \$9,935,964.00, and 15,000 boats of 179,554 tons in the aggregate were employed in its transportation.

During its existence the trade of Georgetown extended as far as Fort Osage on the Missouri to Lake Erie and to Mobile. The route to Fort Osage was first up the Potomac 220 miles, then overland to Brownsville on the Monongahela, a branch of the Ohio, 25 miles, thence down the Ohio to its junction with the Mississippi, up the Mississippi to St. Louis and afterwards by the Missouri to the Fort. For Lake Erie the goods were sent over the same route to Cincinnati on the Ohio, thence up the Miami of the Ohio to its farthest point at Lorimer's Store, thence overland 35 miles to Fort Wayne on the Miami of the Lakes, and down this river to Lake Erie. For Mobile the goods were sent from Georgetown to Brownsville by the above route, then down the Monongahela and Ohio to the mouth of the Tennessee river,

then up this river to the Mussel Shoals or to Colbert's Ferry, thence overland to the Tombigbee at the junction of that river with a branch called the Yibby, 120 miles, thence down the Tombigbee to Mobile.

Such inland trade (not by water) as the town enjoyed in its early days with the country immediately surrounding her came over the following roads, viz., the Main Road, leading from the town to Bladensburg which crossed at the ford of Rock Creek; the road to Fredericktown; the road to Watts Branch; the road from Rock Creek Ford to Rock Creek Church, and the road across the river in Fairfax County leading first to Magee's and later to Mason's Ferry.

There was a road to the Washington side of Rock Creek opposite Bridge Street which was not much used prior to the construction of a bridge across the creek by the town in 1788—the water being too deep to ford. Robert Peter, Thomas Beall of George, and William Deakins, Jr., commissioners for the construction of this bridge, invited proposals for the work by the following advertisement:

“To be let to the lowest bidder on Monday the 19th instant at Mr John Suter's in Georgetown, the building of a bridge over Rock Creek near said town. As this is a building of some consequence it is expected that no person will apply but those who are well qualified to execute the work in the neatest manner and to give ample security for the performance.”

Georgetown intended evidently in this instance to build well, but after some years of useful service the bridge was the scene of a melancholy accident; it gave way one stormy night and precipitated into the creek—then a considerable body of water as we have seen—a stage coach which was crossing it and the driver and

horses were drowned. After this occurrence and the repair of the bridge a lively fancy aided by a little superstition on the part of the denizens of the vicinity had no difficulty in outlining on stormy nights the ghostly figure of the driver, with his coach and horses crossing it as he had been wont to do in the days of the flesh. The traditions of the town are particularly rich in stories of ghosts and hobgoblins. Among them may be mentioned the "Drummer Boy of the Little Falls" and the "Headless Man of K Street Bridge." Although the former has never been actually seen since his death, it may be asserted upon the authority of several more or less veracious persons that the roll of his drum can be distinctly heard at the gruesome hour "when night and morning meet," when church yards are supposed to yawn and graves give up their dead. The tradition in regard to the drummer is that during the early part of the Revolutionary War he was drowned in crossing the river while proceeding to a muster on the Virginia side. What caused the appearance of the headless man of K Street bridge I have not heard, and whether his forbearance has been due to a moral perception of the impropriety of taking what did not belong to him, or of the inutility to a spook of such an appendage as the head, it seems that he has never made an effort to supply himself with that article at the expense of any of those who have had occasion to pass that locality. The only losses of heads which he has been known to have caused have been of a purely figurative character.

FLOUR INSPECTORS AND THEIR OATHS OF OFFICE.

In 1771 an act was passed providing for an inspection of flour at the town. The preamble recites "that it is represented that discoveries had been made of certain

deceits practiced by the manufacturers of flour to the great prejudice of the buyers thereof and injurious to the community," and to prevent the same the commissioners were authorized to appoint "a person of good repute and acquainted in the goodness and quality of flower" to be inspector.

Four brands were established, superfine, fine, middling and ship stuff, and the fee allowed for inspection and branding was 1½d. for each cask.

At a meeting of the commissioners on February 21, 1772, they elected Thomas Brannan to the office of Inspector under this act, and, according to their minutes, he took "the several oaths of Government" and repeated and signed the following test, viz.:

"I, Thomas Brannan, do declare that I do believe that there is not any transubstantiation in the sacrament of the Lord's supper or in the elements of bread and wine at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever."

The "oaths of Government" referred to were commonly known as the oaths of "Allegiance, Abhorrency and Abjuration"; without the taking of which and subscribing the above test no person was capable of holding any "Office, Deputation or Trust" within the Province. Brannan was succeeded in office by George Walker some years afterwards on account of inability to perform its duties, he being, in the language of the record, "at present confined in Montgomery County jail." The cause of his incarceration is not stated; it was perhaps for nothing worse than inability to pay his debts.

The foundation of the colony had been laid by a Catholic nobleman and a band of emigrants mostly of the same religious persuasion; who sought a retreat in the New World from a land of persecution, and under

whom, says Bancroft, "religious liberty obtained a home, its only home in the wide world."

It offered an asylum to the Puritans and all shades of dissenters and non-conformists from Virginia and other colonies from the persecution to which they were subject, and of which they availed themselves so largely that they soon outnumbered the Catholics.

The tolerant spirit which prevailed is evident in the form of the oath taken by the early Governors in which they pledged themselves "not to trouble, molest or discountenance any person whatsoever in said Province professing to believe in Jesus Christ for or in respect of his or her religion" nor to "make any difference of persons in conferring rewards, offices or favors," but merely as they should find them faithful and well deserving and "endowed with moral virtues and abilities fitting for such rewards, offices and favors."

In 1649 "an act concerning religion" was passed which declared that "the enforcing of the conscience in matters of religion have frequently fallen out to be of dangerous consequence" and that, "the better to preserve mutual love and unity," no one professing to believe in Jesus Christ should be troubled in the free exercise of his religion.

A writer describing the condition of affairs in the colony in 1656, where he then resided, says that "The several Opinions and Sects, which lodge within this Government, meet not together in mutinous attempts to disquiet the power that bears rule" and that "the Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal (whom the world would persuade have proclaimed open wars irrevocably against each other), contrary wise concur in an unanimous parallel of friendship." It is almost incredible that a colony which had experienced the benefits of and prospered under the liberal and wise

régimé of the first Calverts should have ever given a place on its statute books to laws conceived in the spirit of bigotry and patterned in servile manner upon the prescriptive Acts of the British Parliament.

The condition of affairs which prevailed in the early days was happily restored by the Maryland Declaration of Rights and Constitution adopted in 1776, which declared "that every man having property in, a common interest with and an attachment to the community ought to have the right of suffrage" and "that as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to Him, all persons professing the Christian religion are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty," and ought not to be molested in person or estate on account of their religious profession or practice.

THE TOWN IN THE DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION.

During the Revolutionary War Georgetown suffered, of course, from the general depression of trade, but she was not idle. There is ample evidence that during this period all her energies were devoted to the advancement of the American cause.

At a meeting of the inhabitants held at the county court-house November 18, 1774, a committee was appointed to carry into execution the association agreed on by the Continental Congress, and among the names are those of John Murdock, Thomas Johns, William Deakins, Jr., Bernard O'Neill, Brooke Beall, Joseph Threlkeld, Walter Smith, Thomas Beall of George, Francis Deakins, Caspar Schaaf, and Richard Crabbe, all of whom lived in Georgetown or near it. On the Committee of Correspondence which was appointed for the county, Georgetown was represented by Thomas Johns, Walter Smith, William Deakins, John Mur-

dock, Bernard O'Neill, Casper Schaaf and Thomas Cramphin.

The history of Frederick County, of which the town formed part prior to 1776, and of Montgomery County, which was in that year created out of the lower part of Frederick, during the struggle, is one which the people of these counties may well contemplate with emotions of patriotic pride. Georgetown was no insignificant actor and factor in it. Her forges and smith shops resounded with the manufacture of arms; the work of recruiting for the service went on continuously; she became a great depot for the collection of military supplies, and several of her sons attained distinction in the Maryland Line, so famous in Revolutionary annals. Two companies of riflemen from Frederick County, one under the command of Captain Michael Cresap, and the other under the command of Captain Thomas Price, were the first to go to the assistance of Massachusetts after the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. They left Frederick Town on the 18th of July, 1775, and marched five hundred and fifty miles to Cambridge.

In January, 1776, the Maryland Convention resolved that the Province "be immediately put in the best state of defence," and that a sufficient armed force be raised for its protection. John Murdock became the Colonel, Thomas Johns the Lieutenant-Colonel, William Brooke the First Major, and William Deakins the Second Major of one of the battalions of Frederick County militia raised under this resolution. They were all residents of Georgetown or its suburbs, as were also Captain Benjamin Spiker and the other officers and men of the battalion.

John Yoast, a Georgetown gunsmith, entered into a contract with the Maryland Council of Safety to fur-

nish a number of muskets. Major William Deakins, Jr., of the 29th Battalion, in a letter to the Council, dated at Georgetown December 18, 1776, recommends Yoast very highly, saying that he was a man much to be depended on and would not deceive the Council; that he had a number of hands employed and was well prepared to carry on extensively the work of gun-making.

The muskets, as described in the requirements of the Council were to be 42 inches in length, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch at the bore, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter at the breech and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch at the muzzle, with good double bridle locks, black walnut or maple stocks and plain strong brass mounting, bayonets with steel blades, 17 inches long, steel ramrods, double screws, priming wires and brushes fitted thereto, with a pair of brass moulds for every 80 muskets, to cast 12 bullets on one side and on the other side to cast shot of such size as that the muskets will chamber 3 of them.

Thomas Richardson, whose name is appended to the letter to Mr. Johnson, which has been mentioned, was a Quaker, but evidently one of the militant kind, for he led one of the first companies out of Georgetown to the seat of war. Alexander McFadden was the first lieutenant and John Peter the second lieutenant of this company. Thomas Beall, perhaps the one of that name who was afterwards one of the trustees of the Federal City, raised a company of riflemen, which was assigned to duty in Colonel Moses Rawlings' rifle regiment and took part in the engagements around New York. This regiment was sent by General Greene to reinforce the garrison of Fort Washington, on the Hudson. They made a stubborn defense to the attack of Knyphausen and Rahl with 4,000 Hessians and Waldeckers and (says Scharf, from whom the facts

in relation to this engagement are taken) held their entrenchments on the north lines against five times their number, until, in the charge finally made by the attacking party, besiegers and besieged, owing to the indisposition of the riflemen to retreat even when overpowered, became mixed together; but their rifles having become fouled and useless from frequent discharges, their colonel wounded, their flanks turned, and receiving no support, they were forced back, fighting all the way, until within a hundred yards of the fort, which soon surrendered. General Greene said that if this regiment had been supported, Knyphausen could not have gained the north lines; that the defense elsewhere was irresolute, but that had it been "like that of Rawlings' riflemen, it would well-nigh have crippled the enemy." It cost Knyphausen nearly 800 men to force the single regiment of Rawlings back. The regiment was complimented by General Washington for "the great spirit with which it behaved on this occasion."

Captain Leonard M. Deakins' company of Colonel Griffith's battalion was recruited from the young men of the town and neighborhood and started for the scene of war in July of 1776. His brother Francis was engaged in recruiting a company at the same time, who were supplied with guns and blankets and left Georgetown, taking up their line of march in the same direction the following August.

William Deakins, Jr., the brother of Leonard and Francis, above mentioned, was active in various ways in the cause. He was one of the "worshipful justices of the county" and as such presided at the trials of a number of persons who had been indicted for "damning Congress," "wishing success to the King's arms," "damning Whigs and rebels," and other grave

offenses against the peace and dignity of the newly declared sovereign and independent State. He was, as we have seen, the second major of Murdock's regiment of militia. His regiment being called to the front, he entered upon active service and subsequently attained the rank of colonel in the Maryland troops. The same rank was attained by the gallant Captain Thomas Beall. Another citizen of the town, James M. Lingan, whose sad fate in the so-called "Federalist" riots in Baltimore in 1812 made his name historic, was a gallant officer in the Maryland Line, in which he attained the rank of Lt. Colonel.

These fragments of the town's history "in the times that tried men's souls" have now been for the first time gathered together; they will serve to correct in the future any impression which might otherwise prevail that during the Revolutionary War Georgetown had no history to boast of. I am led to say this by reason of the fact that General W. H. F. Lee, in response to the address of welcome delivered by Commissioner Wheatley to the visitors from Virginia at the celebration which was held in Georgetown over the opening of the new free bridge over the Potomac, stated, in the midst of a tribute, which was otherwise graceful, eloquent and generous to the heritage of glories which the old town may justly consider as hers, that he had not been able to find that she had taken a conspicuous part in the Revolutionary War.

In March, 1776, a vessel under Captain Conway, arrived in the Eastern Branch of the Potomac with nearly 6,000 pounds of powder on board, for the Maryland authorities. In a letter from Jonathan Boucher to the Council of Safety, dated March 15, he states that "the people had become somewhat dispirited on account of the want of arms and ammunition, par-

ticularly the latter," but that since the arrival of the powder the change was obvious and "that they were now busy casting buck shot and getting their fire arms in order."

The writer expresses the hope that some of the powder will be allotted to the locality, as the people were apprehensive that an armed force of the enemy would proceed up the river to Alexandria. The powder was safely landed at Blandensburg. Upon the request of George Mason and John Dalton, of the Committee of Fairfax County, ten barrels of the powder were delivered to them.

The apprehensions of the people that the Potomac would be visited by the vessels of the enemy proved to be well founded, but Alexandria and Georgetown were not their objective points.

Under date of July 26, 1776, the Council of Safety wrote to the Delegates in Congress, that the "Fowey" and the "Otter" of Dunmore's fleet, with a number of vessels having the Tory families on board remain in the mouth of the St. Mary's River, and that the "Roebuck" and six or seven other vessels have moved up the river as high as Quantico in Virginia where they stopped to take in water, that it was reported they had landed at William Brent's and burned his house, and that they had then crossed the river and landed at Colonel Smallwood's on the Maryland side.

Lord Dunsmore in a report to Lord Germaine, the British Secretary of State, under date of July 31, 1776, states that not finding sufficient water at St. George's Island he sent the "Roebuck" and the "Dunmore" with transports carrying the empty casks, up the river and obtained a good supply; that a number of rebels had assembled at the house of Brent, who was one of their colonels; that a force from the vessels was landed

and the rebels fled; that Brent's house was burned "and having done all the mischief in our power we reembarked without the loss of a man killed and only four or five wounded." He states that they found "only three of the bodies of the rebels, but we flatter ourselves, there were several more, that the rest had carried off." He does not mention a landing at Smallwood's on the Maryland side of the river. Smallwood was also a rebel colonel.

AFTER THE WAR.

After the declaration of peace in 1783 the survivors of the Georgetown contingent in the military service returned to their homes and engaged in business in the town, as did many other officers in the Maryland Line not previously residents of it. General Uriah Forrest, who was originally from St. Mary's County and who lost a leg at Germantown, went to London at the close of the war and established there the firm of Forrest, Stoddert and Murdock, which immediately secured a large trade with the Potomac planters. He amassed a fortune in London, but returned to the United States after the location of the seat of the Federal Government on the banks of the Potomac, and engaged in business in Georgetown. He purchased largely of lots in the new city and of property in its vicinity and in the vicinity of Georgetown. He built and occupied the large dwelling on the south side of Bridge Street, which subsequently passed into the ownership and occupancy of the late William Marbury, the elder. Upon the establishment of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, in 1801, he was appointed its clerk.

General Forrest's country seat was Rosedale, now occupied by one of his descendants—Oak View, the

country seat of President Cleveland during his first term of office, was built upon a part of General Forrest's land.

Colonel Charles Beatty, of Frederick County, also a gallant officer in the Maryland Line during the Revolution, located with his family in Georgetown at the close of the war, and engaged in business, as did also Benjamin Stoddert, of Prince George's County, who became the first Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Stoddert purchased, about the close of the eighteenth century, the square bounded by Prospect, Bridge, Fayette and Frederick Streets and erected his mansion upon the northeast corner on the bold bluff which rises on this corner to a considerable height above the river. The magnificent view of the Potomac and neighboring part of Virginia which is afforded by the locality cannot be surpassed and it was doubtless the controlling consideration which influenced Messrs. Stoddert, Mason, Templeton, Worthington and others in erecting their dwelling houses in this vicinity. There was a flavor of Colonial architecture around the commodious old mansion, which is still standing, although changed in appearance. The property belonged to and was occupied by the late Dr. John L. Kidwell for many years prior to his death.

That the town enjoyed a large foreign trade just after the Revolution may well be inferred from the fact that the following vessels, among many others, plied regularly between her port and the ports of England, viz.: "Charlotte," "Potomac Planter," "Eleanor," "Washington," "Betsey," "Sally," "Maryland," "Nantis," "Lady Mary," and the "Changeable."

The "Maryland," which was a vessel of 400 tons burthen, was the first to sail from the City of Wash-

ington after its establishment, with a full cargo and bound for a foreign port; she sailed from Barry's wharf on the Eastern Branch laden with flour and bound for a foreign market, in the year 1799.

In 1788, Thomas Corcoran, the father of the late W. W. Corcoran, stopped for a few days in Georgetown while on his way to Richmond, with a view to permanently locating at the latter place. He was so pleased with the appearances of business activity and commercial enterprise at Georgetown that he concluded to remain. At this time, he stated that there were in the harbor ten square rigged vessels, two of them being ships, and that a small brig from Amsterdam was taking in tobacco from a warehouse on Rock Creek, at a point below the present P Street bridge.

GEORGETOWN'S FORMER MERCHANT MARINE.

The early part of the last century, even the first half of it, was a period of great prosperity for the town. All branches of business flourished. The inspection of flour in 1820 rose to 107,320 barrels. The town became a great fish market. The yield of the Potomac shad and herring fisheries was enormous. Georgetown sent large quantities of fish to distant points in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The finest shad in those days brought \$5.00 per hundred and herring 75 cents per thousand; at times so great was the supply that no sale could be had for them at any price and the farmers hauled them away by wagon loads and used them to fertilize their lands.

These were the days of the Conestoga wagons with their equipment of four and six splendid horses, with musical bells, entering the town in long lines, freighted with country produce which was exchanged for other commodities. It was a common sight for High Street

(now Wisconsin Avenue) from Road Street to Water Street, and for Bridge (now M) Street, from High Street far out on the road to the Little Falls, to be filled with them. Herring Hill, the section of the town along Rock Creek near the P Street bridge, got its name from the great quantities of herrings which were caught there.

The Georgetown Exporting and Importing Company was extensively engaged in trade to the West Indies, using in the service several large vessels, the "Eagle," the "Shenandoah," the "Katharine Jackson" and the "Caledonia." The firm of F. and A. H. Dodge, with the "Fidelia" and the "Chase," was also engaged in the same trade.

By acts of Congress, approved July 31, 1789, and March 2, 1799, to regulate the collection of the duties on the tonnage "of Ships and vessels" and on goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States, certain districts, ports and officers were provided for, among the districts being the district of Georgetown, to include "all the waters and shores from Pomonky creek on the north side of Potomac River to the head of the navigable waters of said river," and for which a collector was to be appointed "to reside at Georgetown which shall be the Sole port of Entry."

From 1801 to 1831 the sum of \$520,000 was collected in duties upon foreign merchandise, and from 1790 to 1801 probably \$100,000 more at the port.

In the following table compiled from the records of the Georgetown Custom House are given the names of the vessels owned in the town and comprising its merchant marine during the early part of the last century, together with the names of the residents of the town by whom they were owned. The list is accurate so far as it goes, but it is not complete as the early records in the Custom House were loosely kept.

"Atalanta," built in 1809; owned by Washington Bowie, Clement Smith and John Kurtz; burden, 380 32/100 tons; James D. Woodside, master.

"American," built in 1806 for Daniel Kurtz and Henry Smoot, Jr.; burden, 48 88/95 tons; Henry Smoot, Jr., master.

"Ann," built in 1805; John Eliason, owner; burden, 123 25/95 tons; B. Wood, master.

"Adeline," built in 1807 for Francis Dodge of Georgetown, and Robert Dodge of Newburyport, Massachusetts; burden, 132 46/95 tons; John Souther, master.

"Bellona," owner Vincent J. King; master, Joseph Middleton; burden 70 66/95 tons. This was a British vessel, captured and condemned as a prize, and licensed June 28, 1815.

"Betsy," built in 1801 for John Wheelright; burden, 23 31/95 tons; Robert Gibson, master.

"Henry Clay," built at Georgetown in 1816; Richard Parrot, owner; burden, 93 51/100 tons; Bartholomew Wood, master.

"Ceres," built in 1806; John I. Stull and John S. Williams, owners; burden, 98 14/95 tons; Leonard Smith, master.

"Coquette," built in 1816 for Joel Cruttenden and others; burden, 99 55/95 tons; Peter Vail, master.

"Catharine," built in 1810 for Henry Smoot and sailed by him; burden, 33 60/95 tons.

"Caledonia," built in 1828; owners, Walter Smith, Clement Smith, Francis Dodge and E. M. Linthicum; burden, 647 61/95 tons; Hazadiah Coffin, master.

"Francis Depau," built in 1833; owners, Walter Smith, Clement Smith, Francis Dodge and William S. Nichols, Sabret E. Scott and Alexander H. Marbury; burden, 595 82/95 tons; Clarence A. Foster, master.

"Eagle," owned, on November 1, 1828, by Walter Smith and Henry B. Rose; master, William Morrill; burden, 395 tons. This was a British vessel captured August 12, 1812, and condemned. Henry B. Rose was at one time her master.

"Eagle," built in 1805; owner and master, John McPherson; burden 27 63/95 tons.

"Eliza," built in 1808; owner and master, Alexander Semmes; burden, 77 5/95 tons.

"Eliza Ann," built in 1807 for Henry McPherson, by whom she was sailed; burden, 25 56/95 tons.

"Elizabeth," built in 1817; owner, Samuel McKenney; burden, 119 tons; William Loosemore, master.

"Farmer's Friend," built in 1816 for Richard T. and Alexander Semmes; burden 74 33/95 tons; master, Alexander Semmes.

"Fortitude," built in 1811 for Joshua Ellis; burden, 21 25/95 tons; Richard Glover, master.

"Henry," built in 1809 for John Pritchett and by whom she was sailed; burden 51 41/95 tons.

"Hope and Polly," built in 1826; owners, Sabret E. Scott, Francis Dodge and others; burden, 96 tons; E. Baker, master.

"Hornet," built in 1816; owners, John and William Lipscomb; burden, 88 55/95 tons; John Dellanare, master.

"John," built in 1800 for Ezra Simpson by whom she was sailed; burden, 75 53/95 tons.

"Katharine Jackson," built in 1833; owners, Walter Scott, Clement Smith, John Carter, Walter Smith, E. M. Linthicum, O. M. Linthicum, John Davidson, Francis Dodge, Jr., Joseph L. Peabody and George Parker; burden, 456 94/95 tons; John Peabody, master.

"Jane," built in 1820; owner, James C. Wilson; burden, 70 tons; master, Gustavus Harrison.

"Liberty," built in 1815 for Richard Parrot; burden, 79 91/95 tons; Alexis Lockett, master.

"General Lingan," built at Georgetown in 1812 by William Doughty, master ship builder, for Washington Bowie and John Kurtz; burden, 363 76/95 tons; William Weston, master.

"Lottery," built in 1818 for John Peter, William G. Ridgeley and Gustavus Harrison; burden, 57 18/95 tons; Leonard Marbury, master.

"Levisa," built in 1811 for Ebenezer Eliason and Henry McPherson of Georgetown, and Benjamin Hershey of Montgomery Co., Md.; burden 73 65/95 tons; Spenser Grayson, master.

"Leonidas," built in 1820; Alexander Semmes, owner; burden, 95 82/100 tons.

"Maria," built in 1808; owners, Walter Smith and Clement Smith; burden 104 14/95 tons; John Nelson, master.

"Margaret," built in 1816; owners, William McKenney, William G. Ridgeley, Gustavus Harrison and Raphael Jones; burden, 78 75/95 tons; Bartholomew Wood, master. This vessel was lost with all on board on a return trip from the West Indies.

"James Madison," built in 1816 for Alexander and Ignatius Semmes; burden, 55 13/95 tons.

"James Monroe," built in the Eastern Branch in 1815 for Washington Bowie and John Kurtz; burden, 127 50/95 tons; James D. Woodside, master.

"Mary Elizabeth," built in 1820; owner, John Lacy; burden, 52 tons; William Loosemore, master.

"Malvina," built in 1814; owners, William McKenney and James C. Wilson; burden, 74 75/95 tons; Lemuel C. Neill, master.

"Mary," built in 1816; owners, John Dellanare and Henry Fendall; burden, 92 58/95 tons; John Dellanare, master.

"Mercury," built in 1819; owner, Levin Stewart; burden, 88 55/95 tons; George Stinchcomb, master.

"Margaret's Son," built in 1822; owner and master, John Lacy; burden, 47 48/95 tons. This vessel was at one time the U. S. schooner "Jackal."

"Ossipee," built in 1810; owners, John I. Still and John S. Williams; burden, 291 3/95 tons; William Williams, master.

"Olympia," built in 1819; owners, Richard Parrot and John Tayloe; burden, 199 51/95 tons; Alexander Rutherford, master.

"Presage," built in 1808; owners, Washington Bowie, John Kurtz, Clement Smith and Walter Smith; burden, 155 30/95 tons; Alexander M. Rose, master.

"Polly," built in 1801 for Samuel Smoot, by whom she was sailed; burden 30 36/95 tons.

"Potomac," built in 1830; owners, Francis Dodge, Jr., John Davidson and Roswell Woodward; burden, 147 19/95 tons; Paul Baker, master.

"Planter's Friend," built in 1806; owner, Henry McPherson; burden, 33 13/95 tons; Robert Russell, master.

"Panopea," built in 1816; owner, Walter Smith; burden, 205 tons; Eleasur Crabtree, master.

"Rebecca," built in 1811; owner, Ignatius Luckett, by whom she was sailed; burden, 21 35/95 tons.

"Republican," built in 1805 for John B. and Raphael Boarman; burden, 40 88/95 tons; Charles Arnold, master.

"Resolution," built in 1808 for John McPherson; burden 29 tons; Charles Arnold, master.

"Rosanna," built in 1796 for Alexander Smoot; burden, 94 63/95 tons; Elijah Hefferton, master.

"Renown," built in 1827; owners, Roswell Woodward of Georgetown, and others, non-residents; burden, 106 92/95 tons; Abel Stannard, master.

"Rubicon," built in 1825; owners, Sabret E. Scott, Francis Dodge of Georgetown, and others, non-residents; burden, 120 tons; John Stetson, master.

"Rambler," built in 1828; owners, Francis Dodge, Francis Dodge, Jr., of Georgetown, and others, non-residents; burden, 121 tons; Thomas Colley, master.

"Rambler," built in 1802; owner, John Brent; burden, 26 tons; Charles Chiseldine, master.

"Eleanor H. Semmes," built in 1821; Alexander Semmes, owner and master; burden, 122 tons.

"Shenandoah," built in 1823; owners, Walter and Clement Smith; burden 475 49/95 tons; Alexander Rose, master.

"James G. Stacy," built in 1825; owners, Roswell Woodward, George Lowrey and Sabret E. Scott; burden, 74 74/95 tons; John R. Mason, master.

"Sallie," built in 1799; owner, Joseph Radcliff; burden 40 10/95 tons; Charles Minitree, master.

"Elizabeth Sturgis," built in 1817; owners, Walter Smith of Georgetown, and William G. Adams of Alexandria, Va.; burden 160 55/95 tons; Leonard Marbury, master.

"Traveller," built in 1805 for James Cassin; burden, 104 11/95 tons; Josias M. Speak, master.

"Trenton," built in 1815 for John I. Stull and John S. Williams; burden, 93 tons; Robert W. Beaseley, master.

"Two Sisters," built in 1800; owner and master, Joshua Ellis; burden 20 10/95 tons.

"Talbot," built in 1800; owners, Alexander Suter and Joseph Middleton; burden, 40 88/95 tons; Joseph Middleton, master.

"Ulysses," built in 1818; owner, Walter Smith; burden, 392 tons; Alexander M. Rose, master.

"Union," built in 1797 for Joseph B. Parsons of

Georgetown, and George Lake of Washington; burden, 24 21/95 tons; Edward Arnold, master.

"Villorious," built in 1812 for Washington Bowie, John Kurtz and Robert W. Beaseley; burden, 169 57/95 tons; R. W. Beaseley, master.

"Volunteer," built in 1820; owner, Walter Smith; burden, 167 tons; Samuel Gover, master.

"Vernon," built in 1824; owners, Joel Cruttenden and Daniel Wilson; burden, 68 tons; Harrison Harris, master.

"William," built in 1804; owners, Richard Parrot and Daniel Renner; burden 60 59/95 tons; James Spilman, master.

"George Washington," built in 1814; owner, Richard Parrot; burden, 58 58/95 tons; Henry G. Robinson, master.

THE TOWN INCORPORATED.

The commissioners held their last meeting at the house of Mr. George Baker, January 20, 1789, after having for nearly forty years attended to the affairs of the town. Robert Peter served on the board from 1757 to 1789, a period of thirty-two years. Adam Stewart, a member of the board when the Revolutionary War began, was a Tory and left the country for England. He was the owner of a tract of land which was confiscated by the State.

An amusing story is told by a descendant of one of the first Scotch settlers, who was also one of the commissioners of the town. The latter sent a particularly black specimen of a negro girl home to his mother in Scotland as a waiting maid or attendant. In the course of time a vessel came up the Potomac having the girl on board and also a letter from the old lady to her son. In this letter she thanked him for his filial remem-

brance and went on to say that she had not been able to accomplish anything in the way of a change in the appearance of the girl; "that she had washed, and washed and washed and that the more she washed the blacker the thing got," and that as the girl did not take kindly to her new surroundings and wished to return, she had sent her back.

The town was incorporated under the name of "The Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of Georgetown," on December 25, 1789; Robert Peter was made Mayor by the act of incorporation, John Mackall Gantt, Recorder, and Brooke Beall, Bernard O'Neill, Thomas Beall of George, James Macubbin Lingan and John Threlkeld, Aldermen; and ten persons to be elected *viva voce* were to be Common Council men, who were required to have visible property to the value of £100, and the voters were to be "freemen above the age of 21 years having visible property within the State of the value of £30 Current Money" and who "had resided in the town for one whole year."

The first meeting of the corporation of which there is any record was held November 28, 1791, at the house of Joseph Semmes, at which there was present Thomas Beall, Mayor; Uriah Forrest and Daniel Reintzell, Aldermen, and Valentine Reintzell, Jr., Thomas Corcoran, Charles Beatty and James Clagett, Common Councilmen, appeared and took their seats. On the following day Robert Peter and Charles Magruder appeared and took their seats and were fined 3s. and 9d. each for non-attendance in due time.

On May 2, 1791, the people of the town witnessed a novel spectacle. The ship *Termageant*, belonging to the house of the Messrs. Clagett, which was anchored in the stream off the town, was discovered to be on fire. The inhabitants and the seamen in the harbor quickly

collected, but were deterred from efforts to extinguish the flames by knowledge of the fact that the cargo consisted in large part of powder.

As the flames progressed and reached the powder, a terrific explosion took place, which shook all the houses in the town. Cinders and pieces of the ship flew in every direction; and the extensive tobacco warehouse of Francis and Charles Lowndes, a short distance from the water, was saved with great difficulty.

On the first Monday of January, 1792, Uriah Forrest was elected Mayor and Robert Peter and Charles Worthington were elected Aldermen. At a meeting held on the twenty-seventh of March, 1792, Peter Casanave and Charles Beatty appeared as Aldermen and Benjamin Stoddert and William King as Councilmen. A supplement was passed to an ordinance for the reassessment of all the property in the town and a bill was also passed to levy a tax upon dogs, whereupon in the quaint language of the journal, "The house discontinues and dissolves for the present."

John Threlkeld was elected Mayor January 7, 1793, and Peter Casanave was elected Mayor January 6, 1794, and at a meeting on the ninth of May, Adam King and John M. Beaty appeared as Councilmen, and Gantt resigning as Recorder, William Hammond Dorsey was elected in his stead. On the fifth of January, 1795, William Turner was elected Mayor and at this meeting authority was given for the removal of that part of the jail built for debtors for the greater convenience of finishing the market house.

The previous meetings of the corporation are silent as to the jail, but at this one a committee was appointed to procure a lot for the purpose of building a new one for the use of the corporation; and notice was given that the next General Assembly would be asked to vest

in the corporation a right to the county wharf, to the front wall of the streets and alleys terminating in the river, and to provide that the fines arising in the Mayor's court be appropriated to the use of the corporation, and to give said Court the right to license ordinary keepers and retailers in Georgetown. This right was then vested in Montgomery County Court.

The meeting adjudged a house built by Adam King, one of its members, in one of the streets as a nuisance, and rather inconsistently allowed it to remain, provided Mr. King paid an annual rent to the corporation of fifteen pounds.

The corporation elected Daniel Reintzell Mayor on the tenth of October, 1796, and John Mason, John French and Anthony Gozler took their seats as councilmen. The next meeting of the corporation was held at the house of Clement Sewall and from the proceedings it appears that the constables of the town, Ignatius Newton and John Sanders, had in their custody a certain Michael Dulaney and a certain Matthew Dulaney on suspicion of having burned the records of the tobacco warehouse, and "it being well ascertained that the county jail is not in a state to insure their safe keeping, and that it is the general wish of the inhabitants that measures should be taken to secure the persons of men who appear to have been guilty of so heinous a crime"; the constables were directed to keep the prisoners in their custody "ironed at hand and foot in one of their own houses or in some other place of safety, under a constant guard by day and night by four men well armed until the adjourned county court to be held at Montgomery County Court House on the second of January next," and then to deliver them to the sheriff of the county. Lloyd Beall was elected Mayor January 2, 1797, and John T. Mason

Recorder in place of William Hammond Dorsey, who had resigned.

On November 3, 1797, an ordinance was passed concerning gambling and a petition was sent to the Legislature of the State asking for some changes in the charter so as to allow the reëlection of a person once before elected as mayor, etc. The Legislature granted the petition and passed an act for the purpose which also authorized the corporation to control vagrants, loose and disorderly persons, and provided that if any such were committed and at the expiration of the sentence should not pay the amount of their fines and prison fees that the sheriff, with the consent of the mayor, might sell such persons as servants for any time not exceeding four months.

At the meeting held February 26, 1798, a committee was appointed to examine the condition of the bridge on Falls Street and to have it pulled down if, in their opinion, in case of a freshet, it would endanger the Market House. This bridge was located on the north side of Falls, now M Street, near the present Potomac Street, across a ravine which commenced at a spring near what is now the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Q Streets. The ravine took a southerly direction to Falls Street and then to the river. The Market House of that day, a frame structure, was built over the ravine about where the present M Street market house stands. For about sixty years this ravine has been filled up, arched and converted into a sewer; back of the late Dr. Loockerman's residence on First Street there was in this ravine a pond of considerable depth and area which was used by the boys of McLeod's School for bathing and swimming.

The expenses of the corporation for the next year were estimated and the estimate, which is as follows,

shows the economical lines upon which it was conducted:

For Jail rent.....	\$	80.00
For a house for a common hall.....		40.00
For Clerk of the Corporation.....		25.00
For Clerk of the Corporation Court.....	\$	25.00
For Clerk Crier Corporation Court.....		20.00
For Prosecutor Corporation Court.....		20.00
For two Constables at 30 dollars each....		60.00
For Clerk of the Market.....		50.00
For Street repairs.....		1,005.00
		<hr/>
Total		\$1,335.00
To be defrayed through fines derived from:		
a tax of 3s on the 100 pounds upon the		
assessable property.....	\$1,066.66	$\frac{2}{3}$
Revenue from stalls of the Market.....	80.00	
Revenue from tax on dogs.....	80.00	
Four billiard tables at 20.....	80.00	
Fines, &c.	80.00	
		<hr/>
		\$1,386.66 $\frac{2}{3}$

That the town was occasionally treated to a theatrical performance appears from the fact that on April 9, 1799, Marlborough Sterling Hamilton, on behalf of himself and company of comedians then in the town, petitioned the corporation to remit part of the tax they were obliged to pay, which was a tax of six dollars nightly for each performance. The law was graciously suspended for their benefit until the thirtieth instant.

WASHINGTON UNACCOMMODATING AND GEORGETOWN SARCASTIC.

On May 18, 1799, a committee was appointed to wait upon the commissioners of the City of Washington and in the name and on the behalf of the corpora-

tion to inform them of ineffectual efforts already made to obtain an instrument for levelling the streets, and to solicit the commissioners to accommodate the corporation with the loan of their instrument for a few days. The committee reported that they had waited upon the commissioners of the Federal City and could not effect the loan of the instrument upon any other terms than the following:

"It must be used by the Surveyor of the City (*of Washington*) and for two days in a week for a term of six days only. That if the business of the Corporation was not effected in this time, upon a future application a further loan might be effected."

Thereupon it was resolved "that the thanks of this corporation be returned to the commissioners of the City of Washington for the extreme politeness and attention with which they have been pleased to accommodate this town by the offer of a loan of the instrument belonging to the citizens of Washington for so great a length of time, as well as for their condescending kindness in pointing out to this corporation *unasked* a proper person to do their work.

"*Resolved*, that during these days for which the Commissioners have determined to loan the instrument in question it cannot but happen that the interests of the City must be materially affected by being for so long a time deprived of the use of it, and that it would be highly ungenerous and improper to profit by the liberality of the gentlemen who superintend the affairs of the City to their evident disadvantage. That the Commissioners of the streets of Georgetown be directed not to accept the loan of the said instrument unless it should be found that the graduation of the whole town can be effected in the space of half an hour and should this not be found practicable they are authorized to purchase

a levelling instrument with the funds placed at their disposal and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Commissioners of Washington."

The troubles of the committee and of the corporation with regard to the levelling instrument did not end here.

At a meeting held on the twenty-eighth of March, 1800, the street commissioners reported that soon after they were empowered to procure an instrument for levelling the streets they first obtained from a competent judge a complete description of such an instrument and empowered John Mason, one of their number, to write to his correspondent in Philadelphia, requesting him to purchase or have made a complete street level, by said description, provided the same could be had for from 50 to 70 dollars. That they were informed that no such instrument could be had in Philadelphia, but that Mr. Rittenhouse, a mathematical instrument maker near Philadelphia, would undertake to make one and thereupon Mr. Biddle was requested to direct it to be made; that they were disappointed at not getting it in time to use it in the fall and that Mr. Mason had received a letter from Mr. Biddle dated January 16 saying that the instrument was completed and brought to him; that it was a very complete one and that the price was 300 dollars.

The committee were very much astonished at this price and, finding that they had limited it to 70 dollars, they thereupon wrote to Mr. Biddle, suggesting that Mr. Rittenhouse dispose of it otherwise, and that the price so far exceeded their limits that they were under no obligation to take it; but, if it could be obtained for 100 dollars they would pay that price.

A reply was received from Mr. Rittenhouse, stating

that it had been executed at considerable expense and with great care, and saying that as a misunderstanding had taken place he would deduct 50 dollars; the committee submitted the matter to the corporation for its action, and the corporation, upon duly considering it, concluded that they were not bound to take the instrument, by contract, and expressed their regrets that they were precluded from purchasing it by the limited state of their funds.

A YELLOW FEVER SCARE.

The prevalence of the yellow fever at Norfolk and Baltimore in the year 1800, excited the liveliest feelings of apprehension in the town. On August 30, Thomas Corcoran and Adam King were appointed a committee "for removing a certain person by the name of Clotworthy O'Neale, now confined with a fever in a house on the Water Side, who arrived here in the public stage from the southward this morning." The committee were directed to cause him to be removed "to such place as they may think proper, so as to prevent a contagion of the disorder, with which he is now confined." On September 17, another committee was appointed, consisting of Charles Worthington, Thomas Corcoran and John Reintzell, whose duty it was made during the prevalence of the fever at Norfolk and Baltimore to frequently visit the different taverns, boarding houses and stage offices and make inquiry if any person who may come within the same be in a situation to communicate said fever, and to remove suspected or afflicted persons immediately from town; and still another committee was appointed, consisting of Anthony Reintzell, Charles A. Beatty and John Mitchell, to diligently attend the wharves and landing places of the town and to visit all vessels

which may come into the river, and if infected persons are found to prevent them from landing.

The committee on the situation of Clotworthy O'Neale doubtless performed their duty as considerately as circumstances would permit, but there is a suggestion of grim humor not intended by them, of course, in the informal but expressive report which they presented in the shape of the following bill, when taken in connection with the terms of the resolution by which they were appointed:

"Sept. 1800	Corpn. of Georgetown,	Dr.
"To cash paid for digging one grave		7 s 6 d."

The committee could have found no place more effective than the grave for preventing a contagion of the disorder with which the unfortunate O'Neale was afflicted.

The fate of O'Neale, dying thus among strangers, was an exceedingly sad one. He had been dispatched by his brother, a boot and shoe merchant in Baltimore, with a vessel loaded with stock, to establish a branch store in Richmond. There he caught the disorder; he was anxious to return to his home, but was refused passage on vessels; he determined to try to reach Baltimore by travelling overland. He was denied accommodations at the houses along the route, and compelled to sleep in barns. When he entered Georgetown he was past recovery from the virulent disease, which had been aggravated by exposure and lack of attention.

THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

About the time the town was incorporated an event was impending which was to exercise a great influence upon its destiny.

In the year 1789 the subject of a location for the permanent seat of the government of the United States largely occupied the attention of Congress, and various places were active in competition for the honor of being selected, among them Baltimore, Annapolis, Philadelphia, New York, Wright's Ferry, on the Susquehanna; Yorktown, west of the Susquehanna; Harrisburg, on the Susquehanna; Reading, on the Schuylkill; Germantown, in the neighborhood of Philadelphia; Wilmington, Del., and Georgetown, on the Potomac. On Tuesday, September 8, 1789, a petition was presented to the House of Representatives from sundry inhabitants of Georgetown, containing an offer to place themselves and fortunes under the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress in case that town should be selected as the permanent seat of the government of the United States, and in the Senate on Monday, June 28, 1790, a representation of Robert Peter, in behalf of himself and other inhabitants of Georgetown, stating the town to be exceedingly commodious and eligible for the seat of government was read. An act was passed on July 16, 1790, for the establishment of the permanent seat of government of the United States at some place on the Potomac between the mouth of the Eastern Branch and the Conogocheague. The act authorized the President to appoint three commissioners who, under his direction, should survey and by proper metes and bounds define and limit a district or territory not exceeding ten miles square within said limits.

The newspapers of October 26, 1790, chronicle the fact of the arrival at Georgetown on the previous Friday of President Washington, and that in company with the principal gentlemen of the town he set out to view the adjacent country in order to fix upon a

future situation for "The Grand Columbian Federal City," and that he left on Saturday for the Great Falls and Conogocheague; the papers also state that since the visit of the President bets run high in favor of Georgetown.

The Georgetown *Weekly Record* of March 12, 1791, contain the following items:

"Some time last month arrived in this town Major Andrew Ellicott, a gentleman of superior astronomical abilities. He was appointed by the President of the United States to lay off a tract of land ten miles square on the Potomac for the use of Congress. He is now engaged in this business and hopes soon to accomplish the object of his mission. He is attended by Benjamin Banniker, an Ethiopian, whose abilities as a surveyor and astronomer clearly prove that Mr. Jefferson's concluding that race of men were void of mental endowments was without foundation."

"Wednesday evening arrived in this town Major Longfont, a French gentleman employed by the President of the United States to survey the lands contiguous to Georgetown, where the federal city is to be built. His skill in matters of this kind is justly extolled by all disposed to give merit its proper tribute of praise. He is earnest in the business and hopes to be able to lay a plat of that parcel of land before the President upon his arrival in this town."

Both of these gentlemen, L'Enfant and Ellicott, played leading parts in the events which attended the founding of the City of Washington. The original plan of the city was prepared by L'Enfant and submitted in 1791 by President Washington to Congress, which was then in session in Philadelphia, where the plan was greatly admired. Ellicott assisted L'Enfant in making surveys in the city and thus became familiar with the details of the plan.

The appointment of L'Enfant in the first instance

directly by the President led him to suppose that he was accountable to no other authority. He refused to recognize the right of the Commissioners of the city to control his actions, and this disagreement led to his withdrawal from connection with its affairs; he took his plat with him, and the Commissioners were left without a plan. He was succeeded as surveyor of the city by Ellicott, who was directed by the President to prepare a plan. As L'Enfant refused the use of the original it could not be exactly reproduced. Ellicott, however, was able from his knowledge of it to prepare a plan, which, though somewhat variant from the original, was substantially in accordance with its design, and became the plan of the city.

Major L'Enfant always felt that he had been unjustly deprived of the credit to which he was entitled as the projector of the plan, and although Ellicott is not to blame in the matter, it is impossible to read the memorials of the time without a feeling that upon the whole L'Enfant, who had entered upon his duties with a zeal and enthusiasm which was remarkable, was not fairly treated.

The plan upon which the capital has developed and grown within the past 115 years into a marvelously beautiful city, whose attractions are increasing every year, is undoubtedly his. The major's memory has been too long neglected when we consider the double claim which he has on the American people, especially those of the City of Washington, as a gallant soldier of the Revolution and as the designer of this plan. It was prepared with the idea and with the expectation on the part of the founders of the city that the national government would devote the same care and attention to the beautification of its capital that other nations displayed with respect to theirs. It was pro-

jected upon a scale of magnificence in the width of the streets which made it impossible for the municipality unaided to make provision for the paving and keeping in repair of sidewalks and carriageways of the extraordinary width contemplated, yet for upwards of three quarters of a century the corporation of the City of Washington exhausted its funds in a hopeless effort to do so. It was not until several years after the Civil war that Congress awakend to a realization of its duty in the premises.

The city was long criticised as the "city of magnificent distances." A witty French lady in the early part of this century referred to Washington as a "city of streets without houses," and to Georgetown as a "city of houses without streets." When we consider the plan of Washington the reason for the first portion of her remarks is obvious. The latter portion was prompted by the fact that Georgetown was built upon a succession of hills, and the lack of uniformity at the time in the grade of the streets gave an irregular appearance to the houses.

MAJOR L'ENFANT.

The career of Major P. C. L'Enfant deserves more than the passing notice which can now be given to him. He was born in Paris August 2, 1754, and died June 14, 1825, at Green Hill, the seat of William Dudley Digges, in Prince George's County, Md., just beyond the District line. He came to America with Monsieur Ducoudray in 1777, during the Revolutionary War. He served as a volunteer and was commissioned as a captain of engineers in the service of the United States in 1778, and was attached to the light infantry in the army of the south; at the assault on Savannah by General Lincoln, he commanded the advance guard of the

American column and behaved with great gallantry, performing the notable feat of leading his men under a heavy fire to the wooden abbatis and applying combustibles. He received a gun-shot wound and fell on the field of battle; he was made a prisoner at the siege of Charleston, paroled and later exchanged for a Captain De Heyden of the Anspach Yeagers, who were part of the Hessian contingent in the British service, and rejoined the army under Washington, where he served as engineer. He was granted a pension of 300 livres by the French King Louis XVI, in consideration of the utility of his services and of the wounds which he had received during the American war. In 1783 he was brevetted as major of engineers by Congress.

After the Revolutionary War he was employed in remodeling for the use of Congress the old city hall in New York, where General Washington was inaugurated as President, and although the expense incident to the completion of the elaborate design was so great as to involve the city in financial embarrassment yet his work was considered to be of such high artistic and architectural merit that he received the thanks of the corporation and the freedom of the city, together with ten acres of land belonging to the city "near Provost lane," which latter he politely declined. He is described as a man marked by a stern independence of character in all circumstances and conditions; independent to obstinacy; one whom no motive of interest or temptation of convenience could sway from his purpose or induce to alter his plan to suit either the taste or the necessities of his employers.

This was well illustrated in the case of his employment by Robert Morris, the Revolutionary financier, to design and superintend the erection of a "palace," as a proposed residence for Mr. Morris in Philadelphia

was called. L'Enfant prepared a design of a very elaborate character and costly in construction. Before the building appeared above ground it is said that a great deal of money had been spent upon it and Mr. Morris met with some difficulty in providing funds for its further progress. He requested Major L'Enfant to make some changes with a view to reducing the cost and was met with a point-blank refusal. As a result the erection of the building was brought to a stop and the major left the city.

Subsequently Mr. Morris, being relieved from embarrassment and in funds, wrote to L'Enfant advising him of the fact with a view to renewing operations on the house. There is a touch of humor in the letter when, after stating that now that the money had been found, he asks the question, "Where shall we find L'Enfant?"

Mr. W. W. Corcoran, who lately departed this life in the city of Washington full of years and of honor, and who cherished to the last an affectionate interest in Georgetown, which was the place of his birth and the home of his childhood, had a very distinct recollection of the personal appearance of L'Enfant, the latter having been a frequent visitor at his father's house. He described him to me as a tall, erect man, fully six feet in height, finely proportioned, nose prominent, of military bearing, courtly air and polite manners, his figure usually enveloped in a long overcoat and surmounted by a bell-crowned hat—a man who would attract attention in any assembly. The late John H. B. Latrobe of Baltimore, who was the son of Benjamin H. Latrobe, at one time architect of the Capitol and at another surveyor of Washington, also had a clear recollection of Major L'Enfant and his description of him agreed with Mr. Corcoran's. All accounts concur in

depicting the major as a man of honorable and high spirit and of great abilities in his profession, but impulsive, and, as General Washington said of him, "of untoward disposition."

Under date of September 11, 1789, Major L'Enfant wrote to the President in New York as follows:

"The late determination of Congress to lay the foundation of a city, which is to become the capital of this vast empire, offers so great an occasion of acquiring reputation to whoever may be appointed to conduct the execution of the business that your excellency will not be surprised that my ambition and the desire I have of becoming a useful citizen should lead me to wish a share in the undertaking.

"No nation, perhaps, had ever before the opportunity offered them of deliberately deciding on the spot where their capital city should be fixed or of combining every necessary consideration in the choice of situation, and although the means now within the power of the country are not such as to pursue the design to any great extent it will be obvious that the plan should be drawn on such a scale as to leave room for that aggrandizement and embellishment which the increase of the wealth of the nation will permit it to pursue at any period, however remote. Viewing the matter in this light I am fully sensible of the extent of the undertaking, and under the hope of a continuance of the indulgence you have hitherto honored me with I now presume to solicit the favor of being employed in this business.

"And now that I am addressing your excellency I will avail myself of the occasion to call to your attention an object of at least equal importance to the dignity of the nation and in which her quiet and prosperity are intimately connected—I mean the protection of the seacoast of the United States—this has hitherto been left to the individual states and has been so totally neglected as to endanger the peace of the Union, for it is certain that any insult offered on that side (and there is nothing to prevent), however immaterial it might be in its local effect, would degrade the nation and do

more injury to its political interests than a much greater degradation on her inland frontiers; from these considerations I should argue the necessity of the different bays and seaports being fortified at the expense of the Union in order that one general and uniform system may prevail throughout, that being as necessary as an uniformity in the discipline of the troops to whom they may be intrusted.

"I flatter myself your excellency will excuse the freedom with which I impart to you my ideas on this subject. Indeed my confidence in this business arises in a great measure from a persuasion that the subject has already engaged your attention. Having had the honor to belong to the corps of engineers, acting under your orders during the late war and being the only officer of that corps remaining on the continent, I must confess I have long flattered myself with the hope of a reappointment, a hope which was encouraged by several of the individuals of the former Congress—and now when the establishment of a truly federal government renders every post under it more desirable I view the appointment of engineer to the United States as the one which could possibly be most gratifying to my wishes, and though the necessity of such an officer to superintend and direct the fortifications necessary to the United States is sufficiently apparent, the advantages to be derived from the appointment will appear more striking when it is considered that the sciences of military and civil architecture are so connected as to render an engagement equally serviceable in time of peace as in war, by the employment of his abilities in the internal improvements of the country.

"Not to intrude any longer on your patience, and without entering on any particulars relating to my private circumstances, of which I believe you are sufficiently informed, I shall conclude by assuring you that, ever animated as I have been with a desire to merit your good opinion, nothing will be wanting to complete my happiness if the remembrance of my former services, connected with a variety of peculiar circumstances during fourteen years' residence in this country,

can plead with your excellency in support of the favor I solicit."

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL CAUSES
DISTRESS TO THE LANDOWNERS.

The arrangement effected by President Washington with the proprietors of the land to be included within the limits of the "Federal City," provided that when it was laid out, upon such plan as the President might approve, the streets and such other portions of the land as might be selected by the Federal authorities, should belong to the United States; and seventeen selections were made, called "Appropriations" or "Reservations." It further provided that as to the "residue of the lots," that is the lots available for private buildings, an equal division of them should be made between the Federal authorities and the proprietors.

The fact that the establishment and maintenance of the national capital was regarded as in every sense a national undertaking and not one of which the people of the city were to be compelled to largely bear the burdens is shown by the above letter and by one which I will now read, written by Daniel Carroll of Duddington, one of the original proprietors of the land in the city of Washington, and which was written in reply to a communication of Henry J. Brent, dated July 24, 1837, propounding an inquiry as to the manner of the relinquishment of right in the streets of the city to the general government. Mr. Carroll's reply was as follows:

"In answer to yours, I fear that the deeds will fully express the relinquishment of right in the streets to the government. I nevertheless perfectly remember that the general opinion was that so great was the gift that the citizens would

never be subject to taxation for the improvement of the streets—having relinquished every alternate lot to the government. Indeed, some were so wild as to suppose the donation was so great the government might pave the streets with ingots of gold or silver. After nearly a half century the result is now fully known; the unfortunate proprietors are generally brought to ruin, and some with scarcely enough to buy daily food for their families. This subject is so truly frightful to me that I hate to think of it, much less to write of it.”

All the writers who have considered the consequences of the establishment of the city of Washington on the fortunes of the land owners in the city have assumed that the conversion of their farms into city lots was attended with an extraordinary addition to their wealth; on the contrary, the fact is that owing to the destruction of the land for farming purposes and the lack of demand for the lots into which the farms had been divided, coupled with increased taxation, which they were unable to pay, the land owners were in reality in most instances seriously embarrassed, and many of them, as stated by Mr. Carroll, were brought to bankruptcy and ruin.

David Burnes, one of the largest of these owners, wrote to the commissioners of the city on the fourth of November, 1792, making a strong appeal for advances on account of the portion of his lands which had been taken for public purposes, stating that he was badly circumstanced and that his house was full of creditors.

His daughter and heiress, Marcia, who married General John P. Van Ness, reaped some of the advantages of it during her brief life, but the location of the federal city upon his lands destroyed his homely but comfortable farm life, and produced for Mr. Burnes, until the time of his death in 1799, only dividends of vexation and distress.

It is commonly supposed that the reason why the attractive plateau east of the Capitol did not show much progress after the city was laid out, and the tide of improvement, such as it was, took other directions, was because of the high prices at which Mr. Carroll and other owners held their lots, but they could not have controlled the situation, even if they had desired to do so, as the government was the owner of one half of the lots. The fact is that they did everything in their power to induce the erection of buildings and the making of investments in that section. They placed moderate prices upon their lots and gave leases for ninety-nine years, subject to the payment of an annual rent which amounted only to 6 per centum per annum upon such prices, and with a privilege of purchase at any time during the term at the original fixed price. The columns of the press of other cities show that Mr. Carroll offered to donate whole sides of squares in eligible situations to persons who would undertake to build, but could prevail on no one to accept.

Some of the characters and the subjects which have been mentioned deserve a fuller notice and much more might be written upon numerous other interesting phases of the early history of the town, but this must be reserved for a future occasion, as this paper has been extended far beyond the limits proper for the present one.

It will be brought to a close with the story of an humble but much respected inhabitant of the town, upwards of one hundred years ago.

THE STORY OF YARRAH.

In the early part of the last century there was living in Georgetown an African by the name of Yarra or

Yarrow, who was treated with great kindness by the people of the town generally, on account of the sympathy excited by his peculiar history. As told by General Mason of Analostan Island to Warden in 1811, and given by the latter in his sketch of the District published in Paris in 1816, it exhibits Yarrow as possessed in an extraordinary degree of the qualities which surmount adversity. Before the Revolutionary War Yarrow was brought from Africa to the United States, and there sold as a slave to a family who lived near Georgetown, on the banks of the Potomac. His master gave him his freedom as a reward after many years of hard labor and faithful service. Yarrow resolved to be independent; he toiled late and early and in the course of a few years he accumulated one hundred dollars. This sum was placed by Yarrow in the hands of a merchant, and was all lost through his insolvency and death. Yarrow was much affected by the loss of his fortune; old age was coming on and strength was failing; but he still cherished the hope of independence. He worked at fixed wages during the day, and in the evening made nets, baskets and other articles for sale. In a few years Yarrow was again rich—he had acquired another hundred dollars. This was entrusted to another merchant and lost through his bankruptcy. Yarrow was sad and depressed, but his habits of industry led him still to persevere in the effort to become independent before the day when he could no longer work. He again worked industriously and unremittingly for several years and then found himself in the possession of another and larger fortune—two hundred dollars. A friend explained to him the nature of a bank, and he invested his money in shares of the Bank of Columbia, in his own name. The bank at this time was prosperous; Yarrow's necessities were not great,

and it is said that his dividends afforded him a comfortable support. Although upwards of eighty years of age, he is described as walking erect and being active, cheerful and good natured. On Christmas his great delight was to fire a gun under the windows of the families who were his friends, which was intended as a signal for his dram. When young he was one of the best swimmers ever seen in the Potomac, and even when his muscles were stiffened by age he still found pleasure in the exercise. He was fond of conversation and often related the story of his life, in broken language, as follows:

“Olde Massa been tink he got all de work out of a Yaro bone. He tell a Yaro, go free Yaro; you been work nuff for me; go work for you now. Tankee, Massa, Yaro say; sure nuff, Yaro go to work for *he* now. Yaro work a soon-a-late-a-hot-a-cold. Sometime he sweat—sometime he blow a finger. He get a fipenny bit—eighteen pennee—gib him to Massa to put by—put by a dolla, til come a heap. Oh! poor massa take sick—die—Yaro money gone. Oh, Yaro go to work again. Get more dolla—work hard—more dolla. Gib him now to young massa, he young, he no die. Oh, young massa den broke—den go away. Oh, oh, oh! Yaro old for true now. Must work again—worky, worky, get more dolla. Gib him dis time to all de massa—all de massa can’t die—can’t go away. Oh, Yaro dolla breed now—every spring—every fall, Yaro get dolla.”

In addition to Yarrow’s ownership of stock in the Bank of Columbia he was able to further increase his worldly substance by the acquisition of real estate. In the land records of the District there is recorded a deed dated February 8, 1800, from Francis Deakins, executor of William Deakins, to Negro Yarrow, by which the west half of lot 217 in Beatty and Hawkins’ Addition

was conveyed to him in fee. The property fronted on the south side of Sixth Street, about midway the square between Market and Frederick.

Mr. Balch states in his *Reminiscences* that Yarrah was a Mohammedan from Guinea and that an admirable likeness of him was painted by Simpson, an accomplished artist and portrait painter of the town.

RECENT PROGRESS IN HISTORICAL WORK.

By COLYER MERIWETHER, Ph.D.

(Read before the Society, November 11, 1907.)

Last year there were listed 720 books of history and biography published in this country. In addition to these were perhaps over another hundred volumes both large and small appearing from the historical organizations of all kinds. Besides, numerous magazine articles, pamphlets and other fugitive productions, poured from the press. Nearly all of this enormous development has come within a third of a century after the revival of historical interest in our land, largely stimulated by the action of educational institutions.

When we consider the nature of the enormous mass of printed historical material in existence it naturally divides itself into three heads, first, generalizations, or popular treatment of history, second, original sources, third, what is ordinarily called scientific history, given in the chronological order of their development as near as possible as the great authors who appeal to what might be known as the general reader first came into prominence in this field. Beginning with ancient writers, notably Herodotus, Thucydides, Livy, we pass through a gallery of giants who have wielded the greatest influence of all pens that bear upon the past. Almost any person of the least education can check off the names of Robertson, Hume, Gibbon, Macaulay, Carlyle, Bancroft, Rhodes, and others of their class. These emphasize the power of form in their utterances and speak to the ear of what is latterly called the man of the street who hardly ever gets beyond these in his reading.

They rise to the level of literature while at the same time seeking to draw lessons for human guidance from the path behind us.

All of these authors go back to original sources, but it is only of comparatively recent period that stress has been laid upon the importance of this branch in the way of dressing this primary data up in type. Of course the ancient nations did very little of this, still less could political units do for history during the gloom and disorder of the middle ages. In fact nothing of moment has been undertaken in this direction by any governments until within the century or half century past. Very properly and very logically the most of these endeavors have been limited to this foundation material in the shape of official documents and papers gathered from the public archives, set in type as near like the original as the exigencies of the art will allow. A few years ago through the aid of our diplomatic service a very comprehensive summary of the work done by many European countries was made by one of our leading historical workers to-day. From this we see that England, Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Austria, Turkey, Russia, Canada, each officially recognize the value of the subject and sometimes expend sums going up as high as a quarter to half a million dollars annually. To this list we may add Japan, which has been for several years engaged in issuing historical material for that ancient monarchy running up to hundreds of volumes of a thousand pages each or roughly speaking more than a million printed pages. The enormous cost of the records of our Civil War still pouring forth from the government press are patent to all, reaching the remarkable total of three million dollars in round numbers.

Our states have also entered energetically upon the

same task, appropriating very liberally for gathering manuscripts, forming libraries and publishing. The State of Wisconsin is one of the finest examples, as the legislature is very liberal in extending aid.

Subsidiary to these public agencies are the historical societies of which there are roundly two hundred and twenty-five, nearly all having been born within the past third of a century. The oldest is the Massachusetts Historical Society, beginning in 1791. In the aggregate it has been estimated by very competent historians that they amount in means to three or four million dollars, counting plant, collections, and endowments, with an annual income from all fountains of half a million. It may not be a wild guess that the literary output annually is a hundred volumes of four hundred octavo pages each.

There is a steady drift among all of them towards absorption or assistance by the commonwealth. The most striking instance is the one in Wisconsin deriving a public support of over thirty thousand dollars every twelve months. Nearly three quarters of our states walk the same road though not abreast of this leader. The national society though getting no direct assistance from the treasury is vastly benefited by connection with the building on capitol hill. As a contrast to these quasi-public bodies may be mentioned two of entirely private character that are splendid examples of what can be done in that way. The richest of all is the famous Massachusetts Historical Society with an income of fifty thousand dollars from endowment. In striking juxtaposition to this is the Virginia one which for years has issued a quarterly of first class excellence upon annual fees and sales, aggregating over four thousand dollars.

Not all by any means of the two hundred and twenty-

five already mentioned publish regularly; some only at intervals and many practically not at all. But the most progressive and capable among them appear in an annual volume or in a periodical, usually quarterly. Owing to postoffice regulations and to the custom outside of history the periodical vehicle is becoming popular among these societies rather than the annual. In another respect there seems to be a gradual development among them all, they all incline more and more markedly to the strict field of original sources. One of the leaders is that one in Richmond which scarcely deals with anything except public documents preserved from colonial days and turned over to them as the custodian. But as the state administrations begin more and more to publish their own archives, there is less room for this kind of work. More attention is consequently paid to such other fundamental material as reminiscences, diaries, letters, and first hand studies and descriptions by men who are practically a repository in themselves.

There is the rapid multiplication of the state-aided historical agencies. In fact, perhaps half of our commonwealths in some form or other support a historical bureau. This assistance is to be observed among the oldest and the youngest of these local governments. New York devotes considerable funds yearly and a long series of large volumes has been the result. Not only her neighbors but her sisters beyond the Appalachian Mountains, across the Mississippi Valley, and on the other side of the Rockies along the Pacific coast are indulging the same kind of generosity. Among the most active in the way of publishing may be mentioned Kansas and Missouri. As has already been said there is considerable uniformity in the general aims of these public and quasi-public institutions. It is very grati-

fyng to note that the work of the Columbia Historical Society is fully abreast of the general level of all of these that have the backing of the people's treasury. A review of all of our volumes will show that we are following the same high-road that they do, that we have the recollections of men whose memories reach far back into the past, that we have the reproductions of early life among us, that we have high class biographies, and pictures of dramatic events behind us, and stories of historical land-marks—that in a word purely through the spontaneous coöperation and labor of those interested in the subject we are doing at our own expense, work that puts us in the front rank with these institutions that have the public purse to draw from. In numerous instances, those bureaus began just as we did through voluntary combination, gradually evolving from that until they became recipients of the bounty of the organized population. It was fitting, proper, and a necessary step in providing the body of citizens with exact knowledge that this should be done at their expense. As we have paralleled them thus far in our progress why should we not take this additional step and get help from the beneficence of the government? Certainly there is no other spot in this whole land with richer traditions, with more interesting associations, with more philosophical or picturesque elements behind them. But in all movements of this sort the man for the post is the most important factor. Among those that have been selected in guiding this institution from the earliest years onward there must be someone specially adapted for this delicate and important task.

The third section of the historical sphere is the latest cultivated and the most exuberant in its growth, unfortunately mis-called scientific history.

Briefly, this means the huge task of attempting to teach history by the scientific method which has been gradually evolved through the centuries. The essence of scientific training is accuracy, first of observation, second of statement, third of verification—all of this to be done with the personal bias absolutely eliminated, only the cold intellect to be involved in this pursuit. It seems a mere truism that we should shut out our feelings when it comes to investigating such a prosaic thing as a collection of stone, but it has been a desperate struggle on the part of investigators into nature to winnow from their minds all traces of emotion. The scientist at the start was far more priest than philosopher or experimentalist. As the range of his vision widened and the depth of his insight increased he reacted from this humanistic atmosphere to the other extreme in which he tried to represent himself as purely a mental machine for seeing, classifying, and tabulating. The magnificent results of this coldly critical attitude were almost boundless and it was an unconquerable consequence that the other departments of learning should be touched and vivified. For a time the historian shrank from this new method, so different from his own. Here on the one hand is the man dealing with a lifeless, inert mass of material. On the other hand is the sane person considering the conduct of other beings just like himself. In the two cases the subject that does the thinking is the same but the objects on which they think are eternally and inherently different in every molecule. The historian cannot experiment, or segregate any portion so that he can observe more minutely the remainder, but there is one thing fixed, the record. A document, a letter, a diary, a coin, a relic of any kind, is an evidence of a fact, it may not be a true representa-

tion in all cases but generally it comes nearer than anything else a man is capable of. Hence, the historian attached himself to the original source as the foundation stone for this new faith. Secondly, as a corollary, comes exactness of statement either as an abstract or as a quotation, with unfailing recognition of the authority that he is using. So far he can claim to be as impartial as any man with balance or crucible or glass. But when he essays the third stage, that of interpretation, then the difficulty arises of reducing himself to an automaton with brain. He has sought to avoid this obstacle by either exhibiting the other sides of any disputed question, and they are myriad in history, or by fairly recognizing another standpoint.

Armed with the triune conceptions, of going to the original sources, of accurately citing and acknowledging his authority, and of subordinating self, as far as possible, letting the facts tell their own story, success was instantaneous and students were soon gathering. A paradise was opened for industrious mediocrity. There is no other branch of knowledge in which the plodder can so unerringly and unmistakably turn out work that ranks him alone with the average of his fellows. Anyone with fingers to grasp a pen, with eyes to see the letters of the alphabet, with the usual modicum of brains, and with claws for scratching in the mold of the past, and with a nose for rooting in the accumulations of the centuries can become a scientific historian of the first rank. Neither special gifts nor unusual powers are necessary nor do exceptional talents avail for putting him in the van so long as he confines himself within the limits of his training. Steady toiling, ceaseless digging and scratching, painful raking, careful and systematical piling up the few

crumbs that he comes across, this is the chosen road that will lead to the goal as that term is understood by the school. He can retire to the dusky dells of the past and busy himself in the catacomb of the generations that have gone before, picking and labeling, far removed from the turmoil and strife of life around him, undistracted by the confusion of interests about him, unharrassed by doubts as to the right side to range himself upon in the questions of to-day, a medieval monk withdrawing into a cave in the distant forest far from his fellows.

Theses and monographs soon began to come from the press in torrential currents, rising higher and higher as the years go on. It would be tiresome to count up the number of pages poured forth yearly, and utterly useless except as a statistical trick, but a fair judgment would put it up into the thousands annually.

It is legitimate for any person to ask the value of all this travail, especially one who has burrowed in the field himself. As to form it can be disposed of in a few words. The one distinguishing and inevitable mark of scientific history thus far is dullness, deep, dense, supreme, unrelieved by glimpse of nature or spark of life. As to its essence it may be said in the first place that the scientific school has vastly overestimated its importance. Generally they look with a kind of pity upon Gibbon, Macaulay and Bancroft as not having had the advantages of scientific history. Their attitude is pretty well represented by the story of how a professor of history in one of our large universities disposed of poor Gibbon with a snort of contempt when someone brought up the Roman historian in conversation. "Oh," said the scientist, "poor Gibbon! I always feel sorry for him he did not know how to use his sources." But when we get a little

perspective on their own path so far from at all competing with Gibbon, with a few exceptions not a single product from the school in the last third of a century has made a ripple among intelligent people of more than a few inches in diameter. Only two or three pens out of the several hundreds of these advanced students of history can touch and interest the general reader. Some have ground out large volumes with almost no readers and of the scores of monographs we cannot be sure that more than two people ever read one of them, the proofreader and the author himself. It reminds one of the strenuosity of boys who go out into the woods and select a tall tree and hew away at it until it comes crashing down to the earth. As it topples with a mighty roar, they raise shouts of triumph and then wend their way homewards leaving the birds to recover from their fright and the solemn stillness to brood over the green masses again, nothing having been accomplished except the glory of felling the forest monarch and the exhilaration of hearing a loud noise.

In the second place the school is confused and aimless as a body, not knowing exactly "where they are at," still less where they want to go, and least of all being sure how to get there. There is a boundless sea around and each has been putting out in his little coracle, very often only turning round and round, but battling all the time, with no point ahead visible, and in many cases the fog shutting off the shore from which he embarked. One has but to glance over the list of titles for dissertations in our prominent centers to see how widely different are the conceptions of what should constitute a thesis for the doctorate. From a study of Benedict Arnold's character up to the disputed election of 1876, from the history of the town

hall up to the limitations upon the president's prerogatives, from a groping after the sources that a popular novelist uses for a piece of historical fiction up to the study of our colonial finances—these are some of the mild extremes to be seen. Some are as far from scientific conception as theosophic poetry, some are almost as rigid as a demonstration in Euclid. Some require delving for several years among musty records, deciphering of cramped handwriting even with the aid of the microscope, the marshaling of an infinity of facts collated from a thousand repositories, others are mere rehashes and condensations of one or two volumes. One of our leading universities stamped as original contribution to knowledge a biography boiled down from a thousand pages to three hundred, similar to a compression of the life of Buchanan, say, into a fraction of its present length.

But what else is to be expected when so many of the instructors are so uncertain? Occasionally one of them in a formal paper lets fly shafts of satire at the general run of theses, but when asked for specific illustrations, he allows himself to go no further than the safe oracular deliverance that some of them are not as good as they might be, but are better than others, and others are not as good as some. In fact the whole school seems a lot of students, all tremendously active in a fog bank, each nervously spading and shoveling in a little circle, anxiously peering about as he goes round and round, looking like so many dim ghosts faintly outlined in the gray vagueness.

This uncertainty extends into the class room. In some of our best institutions the methods of instruction vary as widely even for the freshman class as the examples of topics just given. At meetings of the national Historical Association of late years there are

confessional conferences in which professors from different institutions frankly state the plans that they had adopted. These range from the study of the textbook to the making of a technical bibliography, the latter seeming monstrous to thrust down the throats of raw first year men. Not only do they disagree in method but they are wide apart in the fields covered. Some take ancient history, some medieval, some English, and even some American, as the first pasture for the beginners. But nearly all unite on one conception, an unconscious one we can charitably believe, that the real true purpose of the school course in history is to make a scientific historian out of every student, even the girls!! Heaven save us!!

Thirdly, their sense of proportion and selection seems atrophied. They are so serious to gather up all of the crumbs and fragments that they overlook the main dish. A fact is a fact to them and the greater quantity of them they can rake in the larger the volume and the nearer approach to truth they think. But life is not on a level. Events and deeds are not coördinative but subordinative and cumulative. Men proceed in a succession of heights and hollows, and to reproduce existence there must be summits and ascents and descents in the groupings of data. A million bald statements are no more truth than a jumble of figure blocks is arithmetic. It is impossible to get all the facts and even if possible they would no more revive by-gone days than the skillful stringing together of bones into a skeleton makes a human being.

But there is a bright side in contrast with this darkness.

First, the scientific school gives good mental discipline. It is almost the clear training that the lawyer

gets, in fact the preparation for the two departments is almost the same. The practitioner has to deal with evidence to-day, the historian with evidence yesterday. In consequence he learns to reject all hearsay testimony and to rely upon known contemporary authorities which he has to cross-examine, to weigh, to compare and finally to analyze.

In the second place the school teaches accuracy of statement which necessarily demands the most unwearied search after every scrap of proof that could throw light upon the topic.

In the third place all of this training is preparation for something higher. This is one of the deplorable limitations of the scientific school that it stops with this preliminary forging of the implement and does not proceed to put it to service, but the great historians would have been much improved by something of this intellectual discipline.

Some of the French and German defenders of the school have urged that the chief value of the whole course is the gathering and shaping of raw material for the use of the master of style. John Fiske has frankly acknowledged his obligation to the granaries of monographs, and Wilson shows his consultation of them in his brilliant history of the United States but these eagles of rhetoric gathered only bits here and there from them. It seems a sad waste of muscle and nerve to grind out thousands of pages of which only a few paragraphs will ever be transmitted to the great bulk that all historians must bear in mind.

Nevertheless there may be a future yet for this school. The foundations certainly have been laid for developing men of character who ought to be able to wield some influence in their localities if they continue

to grow but not unless they do. With their regard for the cold facts as the sub-stratum, with their anxiety for correctness of representation, with their habits of research, they are fitted to rear on these which are the mere mud-sills a structure that ought to be something of an inspiration and a help to their fellowmen. So far however, there are no signs of this flowering. A few years ago, within a stone's throw of this hall, at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, the president, one of our most vigorous historians, boldly called upon his brethren to throw off the garments of timorous conservatism and try to come into the current of daily life and to enter into the field of politics. He specifically advised that the Association at least every presidential year hold a meeting early in the campaign to discuss the national issues and candidates from the standpoint of the historian. He might just as well have invited the gentle inmates of an old Ladies' Home to go out and ride bucking bronchos.

Incidentally, we can mention those two departments so nearly allied to history, bibliography and genealogy. The first is so liable to be overdone that it can easily become the most useless rubbish heap in all the universe. The last is a drag-net enveloping those who care for nothing more than to spend their moments in trying to finger back the spider filaments of their pedigrees, painfully, anxiously frantically spending hours, days, months, and years in trying to bridge over some gap. We all know them, the men with the inward fire of devotion to their task and the women even bursting into tears if they cannot find a hook some hundred years back to attach themselves to. We in Washington know the exuberance of these family tree

climbers as annually our ears are rent with the chatter, the shrieks and screams—but I forbear from motives of safety and prudence.

But underlying deep down in the intellectual field, below all these shadows and groupings, the popularizer, the original record, the monograph, is the legitimate query what is it all worth? When we neatly pile up the thousand volumes of last year and over and around these place the twenty-odd thousand of the preceding thirty-two years, all in a beautiful pyramid and walk around it and view it from varying angles the interrogation arises whether it is one of Thomas Carlyle's monumental dust heaps to lie there neglected, moldering into an impalpable powder finally to disappear in the fathomless past.

Right at the threshold we are met with a favorite dispute among philosophers and historians of to-day, namely, is history a science? Names can be marshaled on both sides, including him who is now at the apex of American history-writing, James F. Rhodes, who declares that the avocation which he has followed for from twelve to fifteen years is not to be classed with the valuable sciences such as physics and chemistry. On the other hand, when we see the sturdiness and the systematizing habits of Samuel Rawson Gardiner, who did such great work in the Cromwellian era, we are a little slow about condemning it. The supremest test of science is the power of prediction but not all branches have that gift. But all the sciences deal with nature, inert matter, the results of certain environment over which man has absolutely no control. The humanistic branches on the other hand study and dissect human nature, and while in the bulk men have been affected by the elements above, around, and be-

neath them, we have to allow for the individual influence working within the natural limits. Hence in no strict sense of the word science can history be so described. There is no science of the living and there can be none of the dead. The word is a very convenient one for connoting comprehensive effort at arranging a vast number of facts and stringing them upon a few cords of cause or continuity and results.

Of course in these mountains of typographical dross and trash there are pockets of solid ore and nuggets of gold. In this regiment or so of workers there are a few who can select a topic of worth and can treat it both scientifically and entertainingly, making a real contribution to knowledge that at the same time attracts the reader. Such as these gather facts, methodize tangled statements, reconcile contradictions, state results and reach conclusions that must be of undoubted helpfulness not only to the great generalizer when he is seeking for material but also for any man of intelligence who may read these productions. They are to be found in every historical association and as much so in ours as anywhere. We have in our previous volumes such investigations into the first years of our institution as newspapers, theatres, churches, banks, libraries, hotels, and government. In our last we have an especially fine example detailing the very first traces of local government in the District of Columbia. Allied to that is an important series of biographies on the mayors of Washington.

But whether we take one horn or the other of this dilemma the value of intellectual toil at bottom rests upon the amount it may contribute to the comfort and happiness and development of mankind. History can warn against the repetition of mistakes and the swal-

lowing of exploded errors. It perhaps has saved us from recanonizing rejected heresies. At least platform, speech and editorial are debtors to the past on both sides of every political issue among us for arguments and illustrations. These myriads of appeals to the voter must have some weight in his decision, and if so, history is worth all the herculean labor put on it, as it is the man of the mass that is the final decider of our course. History should also allay feeling and smooth animosities and it is stoutly claimed that the subsidence of the passions of our civil war is due to study of the past. Not all the prejudice by any means has disappeared and sometimes it is fiercer and more imperishable among the historians than anyone else—the teachers and writers in each section. It might fail however in all these respects and still be of the greatest benefit, if it helps to well-balanced lives, preparing men to take what fate may bring upon them. And is not just this the real kernel of historical study, that it gives culture which is another name for broad sympathetic character? Is not history more allied to literature than to science, though it is that rare subject that stands in between the two? Does it not elevate the outlook and extend the horizon, teaching that many things which afflict to-day or astonish men are as old almost as the race? This very knowledge should give courage for meeting new difficulties, should strengthen the judgment for new problems, should fortify under disaster, and should temper exaltation in the hour of victory.

In this work of forming character, of broadening and deepening convictions, all forms of historical activity take part. The most profound one, of course, is the source on which all comments and conclusions must be based. It is perhaps for this reason that the govern-

ments devote their strength to this line more than to any other and that historical societies are all tending in the same direction. Allied to this, what might be called the mud-sills on these granite foundations, should rest those laborious productions of scientific history, but whether they do contribute much towards the growth of the fabric above is open to question. But at any rate those delvers are only mere miners in banks of clay, makers of rough, unlovely bricks utterly useless in themselves and unserviceable except when placed by the hand of the architect in the walls above. It may be only a hodful taken for this beneficent purpose but it is a consolation to have contributed even that atom to the general purpose. However, in any case, the transcribers and producers of the primary data and the editors that give the transcript proper setting and the monographer who goes through scores of these garnering what he thinks the few grains of wheat, all of these insignificant and unheralded workers, while doing something for the mass of their fellows do infinitely more for themselves if they perform these humble tasks in the right spirit. They will get a certain amount of culture, they will widen their range of vision and they will acquire an appreciativeness that will make them more fitted to influence their fellows. But all of these can expect slim recognition and still scantier compensation, commonly none at all. Publishers in fact will hardly touch history without a guarantee of the cost for issuing it. The prince of American historians humorously remarked that he had been working at a rate of five cents a day for ten or fifteen years.

It is to his comrades, about half a dozen now living in this country, and to their predecessors and their successors that all of the artisans in the under world of history must look for the final fruiting of their en-

deavors. It is the subtle skill inhering in style that reaches the heart of the average man. Beyond rhetorical periods he never gets and it is he in this land that decides our policies and shapes our destinies through his choice of our captains. So far from the new school of historical writers shoving aside these men of comment and expression, they are stronger, more useful, more indispensable than ever and it is this small class that comes out of this third of a century of enlargement and of growth more triumphantly than ever.

HISTORIC WASHINGTON HOMES.*

By MR. HAL H. SMITH.

(Read before the Society, December 10, 1907.)

Washington is not only a city of historic homes, but of many of them. Literally, hundreds of these interesting dwellings have been intimately associated with famous men and women of American history.

They are to be found along almost every street and avenue of the national capital. Their story is quite inseparable from the lives of notables in the fascinating procession that has passed through the portals of Washington during the interval of scarcely more than the century which has elapsed since the seat of government was transferred in 1800 from the City of Brotherly Love to the banks of the Potomac, and, these wonderfully interesting figures in the march of events have included presidents, statesmen, diplomats, military leaders and fine ladies and gentlemen of the old school.

Behind the walls of many of these stately, old structures innumerable problems of statecraft have been solved, final compromises have been reached, measures of administration and legislation conceived, treaties signed and even conspiracies hatched. These temporary abodes, the caravansera of man in the making of a great modern nation, have had their brilliant levees

* This very interesting paper, at the request of the Committee on Communications, was prepared and read before the Society by Mr. Smith on short notice, and the facts were obtained by him from papers and manuscript in his possession as well as from numerous volumes relating to the City of Washington, which he consulted.—*Committee on Publication.*

and social functions, their entrancing romances and striking sorrows, their courtships, weddings of pomp or simplicity, and the many impressive moments marking the spiritual exit of dying statesmen. The occupants of these houses have, in fact, played their rôles in some of the finest comedies as well as in a number of the most sorrowful tragedies of American national life.

So very numerous are these historic structures and such is their interest, that, it is perhaps difficult to ascertain where one should begin or end an account of them. All are interesting. None are more so than the group of dwellings facing Lafayette Square. Beginning with the White House and circling that entire rectangle of green is a series of mansions probably more historic than any other single group in the entire country. It was in domiciles on this square that Sumner died, that "Dolly" Madison "held court" and that brave Commodore Stephen Decatur lived, up to the fatal morning that took him out to the old duelling grounds at Bladensburg for the final "affair of the code" with Commodore James Barron.

Diagonally across the street from the White House stands a red-brick structure which was for many years the home of Senator Charles Sumner. It is at the northwest corner of Vermont Avenue and H Street. Senator Pomeroy lived next door. Cleveland went from a suite of rooms in the Pomeroy House to his first inauguration. The Sumner House has, during recent months, been occupied by the Metropolitan Club while that organization has been having its new clubhouse erected. Walter Q. Gresham, former Secretary of State, and Postmaster General Henry C. Payne died in the Sumner House.

Immediately west of the house in which Sumner died

and adjoining St. John's Church, on the east, is the great double house, the walls of which are veneered with stucco, painted with remarkably close resemblance to brown-stone. The house was built by Matthew St. Clair Clarke, who was from 1822 to 1834 the Clerk of the House of Representatives. When Lord Alexander Baring Ashburton was sent to the United States in 1842 by Sir Robert Peel to take up the unsettled condition of the Northeastern Boundary question, it was this house which became his residence. Much of the negotiation between the representatives of the two governments, which led to the final agreement between them, was conducted there and it may be that the treaty itself was signed there. The treaty fixed the northeastern boundary between the United States and the British dominions in that portion of the North American continent.

Daniel Webster was then Secretary of State, and, as a token of the pleasant relations between the two statesmen, Webster named one of his sons for Lord Ashburton. For his part in the treaty achievement Lord Ashburton was accorded, in both Houses of Parliament, a complimentary vote of thanks, and an earldom was offered him, which he, however, declined. The Ashburton House was occupied by John Nelson of Maryland who became President Tyler's Attorney-General in 1843. This dignified, square-shaped structure once sheltered the British Legation, while Lord Dalling, better known as Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, was envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States, and, in its beautiful garden, his not less famous nephew and secretary, Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton, better known as "Owen Meredith," later the Earl of Lytton, is reputed to have written his celebrated poem of "Lucile."

A famous neighboring land-mark is St. John's Church at the northeast corner of 16th and H Streets, which in one respect is like its not less famous companion, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church which has become known as the "Church of the Presidents." St. John's was built in the early part of the second decade of the nineteenth century with the earnest encouragement of President Madison and was long known as the "Court Church." Some of the Presidents worshipped there. Others were only attendants, but from Madison to Buchanan, practically all of the Presidents visited St. John's. The historic claims of the New York Avenue congregation are older, since it was established in 1803 and has had among its worshippers from the White House John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and, before his Presidency, Benjamin Harrison.

But, the part of Washington's religious edifices in the making of the nation would make another interesting chronicle. The mansion, more modern than most of its neighbors, at the northwest corner of 16th and H Streets, opposite St. John's Church, was the home of the late Secretary of State John Hay, and adjoining it on the north side of H Street is the home of Henry Adams, historian, grandson of John Quincy Adams and son of the first Charles Francis Adams whom he accompanied as private secretary when the latter was American Minister to England in the sixties.

In the next house, at 1607 H Street, northwest, now used as a young ladies' seminary, lived John Slidell, when he was a member of the Senate, which he entered in 1853, leaving in 1861 to support the cause of the Confederacy. In the fall of that year he was sent to

France as a Commissioner from the Southern States but was destined to be captured by a United States cruiser under command of Captain John Wilkes. In the same year that Slidell gave up this mansion it was taken over as the home of Gideon Welles, a Connecticut editor who came to Washington to serve as a bureau chief in the Navy Department but was soon called by President Lincoln into his Cabinet as Secretary of the Navy. Welles served in the Cabinet until 1869 and while so occupied he lived in the Slidell mansion. It was later occupied by two Secretaries of War—Daniel S. Lamont in the nineties and Russell A. Alger during the Spanish-American War.

Immediately adjoining Slidell House on the west is the famous Corcoran House about which a volume might be written. It was built by the father of former Governor Swann of Maryland and is surrounded almost by a spacious garden in which there are trees which blossom so fragrantly every spring as to scent the entire neighborhood. During the height of his fame friends of Daniel Webster presented this mansion to him. He resided there while serving as Secretary of State under Harrison and Tyler just before the opening of the Mexican War. When he left the "Tippecanoe Cabinet" Webster decided he could no longer support such an expensive establishment. It was then bought by the late W. W. Corcoran, the banker-philanthropist founder of the Corcoran Gallery, and has since then been known as Corcoran House. Because of Mr. Corcoran's strong Southern sympathies, the Federal Government nearly confiscated the mansion. The great banker anticipated this, however, by leasing the dwelling to the French Minister, the Marquis de Montholon, in 1865, near the end of the Civil War. Thus this structure held French State secrets during the Civil

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War just as it had sheltered those of the British Legation in the regime of Minister Richard Pakenham during the Mexican War.

While Corcoran House was in use by the French Legation, it witnessed numerous magnificent social events and the dispensation of gorgeous hospitality. One of its crowning entertainments of this character was a brilliant ball given by order of Louis Napoleon while General Grant was stationed in Washington, toward the end of the war, as commander-in-chief of the Federal Army, and a French warship which had been lying at Annapolis was ordered here so that its officers might show honor to the general.

At this ball the Marquis de Montholon was fairly resplendent in an elaborate Parisian court-dress embroidered with jeweled fleur-de-lis. Sir Frederick W. A. Bruce, the British Minister, led the cotillion and the occasion was marked by the presence of two brides—Mrs. Kate Chase Sprague, daughter of Salmon P. Chase, and Mrs. General Williams, daughter of Madison Cutts, Sr., and widow of Stephen A. Douglas. After the war ended, Mr. Corcoran returned to the house and remained there until his death in February, 1888. The place was subsequently occupied by Senator Calvin S. Brice of Ohio during the nineties and he is said to have paid \$5,000 to the late Anton Seidl for one splendid evening of music in the great ball room of the house.

On the other side of Connecticut Avenue, at the northwest corner of its intersection with H Street, is the house which was for years the residence of Rear Admiral William B. Shubrick, a distinguished officer of the American Navy who had served with distinction as a lieutenant on board the "Constitution" in one of its famous sea actions. He came here in 1860 to head the

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Light House Board, and after ten years' service in that capacity, died in the Shubrick House in May, 1874. The two old-fashioned and stately houses on the north side of H Street, immediately west of Shubrick House, were the homes, respectively, of Judge Bancroft Davis, diplomat, and George Bancroft, historian, the latter having resided for years and having finally died at what is now numbered 1623 H Street.

Diagonally opposite is the old Decatur House, at the southwest corner of Jackson Place and H Street, now designated as 28 Jackson Place. It was built by Commodore Stephen Decatur, a great naval hero, out of prize money received by him from gallant captures of British vessels during the War of 1812, and was the first private dwelling erected on Lafayette Square after that section had fallen under the torch of the British troops who burned the White House in August, 1814. After Decatur's exploits made him famous, he was designated as a Navy Commissioner in 1814, and, took up his residence on Kalorama Heights, in the fine old mansion of "Kalorama" which was built by Joel Barlow. Decatur's wife was the beautiful Miss Wheeler of Virginia, whose hand had been sought by Jerome Bonaparte before that royal exile had met Miss Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore. There was a gathering, in March 1820, in the Decatur House when David Porter of the Navy, afterwards Admiral, asked Decatur about that "little party" of next week. It is needless to say Porter referred to the "duel" of March 22, 1820.

Early that morning Commodore Decatur slipped quietly out of his house, went across the square to Beale's Tavern, breakfasted with his seconds, and hurried off to Bladensburg. There followed the duel with Commodore James Barron, whose restoration into

the Navy had been vigorously opposed by Decatur. At the first flash from the duelling irons both Decatur and Barron fell. The former was fatally, the latter only severely, wounded. Decatur was brought to this Lafayette Square house, and soon died there. His remains were taken from the house on "the Square" to "Kalorama" (then really a country mansion, although its site is now well within the limits of the growing modern capital) to be deposited in Joel Barlow's big vault. Decatur's remains rested there until they were removed to Philadelphia in 1846. His funeral from the Decatur House on Lafayette Square was attended by all of the public functionaries in Washington, both American and foreign, with Commodores Tingey, Rodgers, Macdonough and Porter, and Captain Chauncey—for whom the Navy has named five of its most modern torpedo boats—officiating as pall-bearers.

Later in its career Decatur House was occupied by Baron de Tuijl, who came to this country in 1823, and in that year leased the mansion from Mrs. Decatur who did not care to live there after the tragedy of the duel. It was likewise tenanted by Henry Clay when he was Secretary of State in the Cabinet of John Quincy Adams, between 1825 and 1829, and when Clay relinquished it the mansion was procured by his successor, Martin Van Buren, who entered the Cabinet of Jackson in 1829, but resigned in 1831 to become Minister to England. It was next occupied by Edward Livingston, of Louisiana, as Secretary of State from 1831 to 1833, who was one of three distinguished brothers, another of whom was the Chancellor Livingston of New York who administered the oath of office to George Washington. Thus three successive Secretaries of State lived in the old Decatur House, one right after the other, for nearly eight years of the most troublesome days of the Jackson-Adams period.

Decatur House was likewise occupied by a famous senator of the thirties—George M. Dallas of Philadelphia—who in the forties became Vice-President of the United States. Judah P. Benjamin, who afterwards became Secretary of State under the Confederacy, lived in the Decatur House while he was in the Senate in the fifties and besides these notable tenants the structure has housed the British Legation under Sir Charles Vaughan who came here in 1825, after Baron de Tnyll gave up the residence. In more recent years General Edward Fitzgerald Beale was the occupant and owner of the house.

Immediately south of Decatur House stands that of William L. Scott which was used as the "Temporary White House" during the anthracite coal strike of 1902, and, four doors south of it, at 14 Jackson Place, is the Schuyler Colfax or Sickles mansion. Originally built by Dr. Ewell, a naval surgeon, it has been the home of three Secretaries of the Navy—Smith Thompson, Samuel L. Southard and Levi Woodbury, also of Senator Rives of Virginia, Schuyler Colfax and Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, when the latter was a member of the House from New York during the fifties. It has been variously called either the Sickles or the Colfax House.

Around the corner, on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue—between the building at the corner now used by the Bureau of American Republics and the one on the other corner of Seventeenth occupied by the United States Court of Claims—are two grand old mansions facing the War Department. They are the Blair house at 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue, and its immediate neighbor, the Lee Mansion at 1653 Pennsylvania Avenue. The latter was the residence of the late Rear Admiral Lee; the former the abode of Francis P. Blair and of

Montgomery Blair. This Blair house was built early in the nineteenth century by Surgeon General Joseph Lovell. After his death it was sold to Francis P. Blair, Sr., editor of *The Globe*, the official organ of the Jackson Administration. The Blair house, accordingly, became a favorite rendezvous for Benton, Van Buren, Levi Woodbury, Silas Wright and other political leaders of that day. The house was once leased by George Bancroft, the historian, while he was Secretary of the Navy under President Polk. It was while Bancroft was living there that he gave the order as Acting Secretary of War for General Zachary Taylor to cross the Rio Grande River and invade the territory of Mexico. Not until after his return from service in Europe as American Minister to England, and to Prussia, did Mr. Bancroft reside, around the corner, in the now famous H-street house.

The Blair mansion was next occupied by John Y. Mason of Virginia as Secretary of the Navy under President Tyler, and then by Senator Thomas Ewing of Ohio, who adopted William Tecumseh Sherman in 1829 and secured for him his cadetship at West Point. During the tenancy of Senator Ewing the Blair house was, in 1850, the scene of the wedding of Sherman to Miss Ellen Ewing, the daughter of that promising young officer's patron, Senator Ewing. The ceremony was performed in the spacious drawing room of the residence in the presence of President Fillmore and Cabinet, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, among others.

The Blair house was inherited by Lincoln's Postmaster General, the late Montgomery Blair from the latter's father, the late Francis P. Blair, and Montgomery Blair lived there during the Civil War. General Robert E. Lee visited both the Blair and the Lee

houses before the outbreak of the Civil War and it was in one of these two mansions that he is understood to have learned of President Lincoln's wish that he, Lee, should accept command of the United States army at the beginning of the war, an offer that was subsequently declined when Lee threw up his federal commission and cast in his lot with the cause of the Confederacy.

Fronting Lafayette Square from the east are the "Dolly" Madison house, now sheltering the Cosmos Club and south of it is the old Tayloe mansion. The Madison house at the southeast corner of the juncture of Vermont Avenue with H Street was erected by Richard Cutts shortly after his brother-in-law, James Madison of Virginia, had come to Washington in 1801 to serve President Jefferson as Secretary of State. Madison lived in that house from about the time of its completion, while he was Secretary of State, until he was elected to the Presidency in 1808. After taking the oath of office in the House of Representatives in March, 1809, Madison returned to this house and was there waited upon by a large concourse of friends including his former Virginia neighbor, Jefferson, the retiring President.

Twenty years afterwards—following the death of her husband in June, 1836, at "Montpelier" in Virginia—Mrs. Madison returned to the Lafayette Square house and there, for more than a decade, she dispensed hospitality as one of the leaders of Washington society until her death in 1849. It was then always part of the New Year's Day etiquette in Washington for social and official leaders of Washington to call first upon the President at the White House and then to stroll across the square to pay one's respects to "Dolly" Madison.

After the death of Mrs. Madison the house was sold

to Captain John Wilkes. By a strange coincidence he was afterwards called upon to take his neighbor Slidell off the British steamer "Trent" on the high seas when the latter was bound for Europe as diplomatic commissioner for the Confederacy, and this incident, in which these two prominent former residents of this same neighborhood of the White House figured, nearly caused war with Great Britain. During the Civil War the "Dolly" Madison house was used as the headquarters of General McClellan and his staff which at that time included the Prince de Joinville and the latter's nephews, the Duke de Chatres and the Count de Paris.

After that the house was used for office purposes by the French Claims Commission and it ultimately passed into the possession of that famous scientific organization, the Cosmos Club. It is one of the very few historic houses in Washington that is marked with a tablet. It is a singular fact that so few of these hundreds of history-making houses have neither tablets nor inscriptions to mark them and this is a work that should engage the serious attention and elicit the hearty support of all public-spirited citizens of the nation's capital. There is a plain stone tablet marking a house on M Street, in Georgetown, connected with incidents in the life of George Washington.

Probably the only other tablet of this character marking the site of any of the hundreds of other noted houses in Washington is the bronze plate upon the wall of the Belasco Theater, on the East side of Madison Place, near Pennsylvania Avenue. That tablet bears this brief inscription:

"On this site Commodore John Rodgers built an elegant house in 1831. In it on April 14, 1865, an attempt was made to assassinate William H. Seward, Secretary of State, by one

of the conspirators who murdered Abraham Lincoln the same night. The Hon. James G. Blaine afterward bought the house and died here."

John Rodgers did not reside long in the house which stood where one now finds the theater. The Rodgers mansion contained more than two dozen large rooms and required large means for its proper maintenance. Rodgers accordingly relinquished the house and it became a fashionable boarding-house. Among its guests at that time were John C. Calhoun, while serving as Jackson's Secretary of War, and Henry Clay part of the time that he was Secretary of State for Adams. From a boarding-house the Rodgers mansion was transformed into the celebrated Washington Club. Daniel E. Sickles and Philip Barton Key were each members of the club which was a rendezvous for statesmen, literatti, and the Beau Brummels of ante-bellum Washington society. Sickles and Key belonged to this club when the tragedy, which has always associated their names, occurred on February 27, 1859, about 100 feet south of the club door.

At the beginning of the Civil War, William H. Seward took over the Rodgers mansion which had ceased to be used for club purposes, and, on the fateful evening of April 14, 1865, when Lincoln was shot at Ford's old theater, Lewis Payne Powell, a Confederate soldier from Florida, visited this house while Seward was lying ill, secured admission as a professed messenger and made his way to Seward's room on the second floor, at the door of which chamber he was met by Frederick Seward, son of the Cabinet officer. The assassin succeeded in inflicting three dagger wounds on the face and neck of the great premier of the war. Powell was captured and hanged with the Surratt conspirators. When the Seward family moved from the house

in 1869, it was taken over by General and Mrs. Belknap and its last distinguished occupant, before its demolition in the nineties for the building of the playhouse, was James G. Blaine who died in the old house on January 27, 1893, shortly after his resignation as Secretary of State under Harrison.

Adjoining the site of the Blaine-Seward-Rodgers house is the famous old Tayloe mansion at 21 Madison Place. It has served in recent years as the home of Vice-President Garrett A. Hobart and of the late Senator Marcus A. Hanna. The Tayloe house was built about 1828 by Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, son of the builder of the Octagon house. Upon his death the property passed into the possession of his widow. Then its fine paintings went to the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Philip Barton Key was related to the Tayloes and it was into the Club House adjoining the Tayloe's, that he was carried to die after he had been shot by Sickles.

One of the last visits ever made by President William Henry Harrison was to the Tayloe mansion in connection with his prospective appointment of a member of that family to be treasurer of the United States. Some years ago the house was sold to Senator Don Cameron of Pennsylvania, who improved it extensively. The late President McKinley frequently breakfasted in this house during its occupancy by Senator Hanna, and the latter matured his plans for the 1900 national campaign within its walls. Between the Tayloe mansion and the "Dolly" Madison house stand two residences in which former Secretary of the Treasury William Windom, the late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll and Senator Fenton lived.

Not far from Lafayette Square, on the west side of Vermont Avenue, between H and I Streets, there could

be seen for many years three princely mansions, one of which was the home of Reverdy Johnson before he went to England to negotiate the treaty of 1868 for the settlement of the Alabama Claims. The second of this trio was occupied by William L. Marcy, as Secretary of War under Polk and Secretary of State under Pierce, and when he retired from the Cabinet he was succeeded in this and in the adjoining house by Lewis Cass, Secretary of State under Buchanan, who had previously been Secretary of War under Jackson.

A still more famous home of the Tayloe family is the old Octagon House at the corner of 18th Street and New York Avenue, so called from its oddity of shape. It was erected in 1798, completed two years later by Colonel John Tayloe and was one of the very finest residences in the entire country. Its building interested General Washington deeply and he frequently visited the site during the erection of the building. Tayloe and Washington were intimate friends and it was upon the latter's advice that the former decided to build a home in Washington. General Washington died before the completion of the Octagon House, but from 1800 until the death of Colonel Tayloe in 1828, the house was famous for its entertainments. Between these years it was visited by Presidents Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and John Quincy Adams, Decatur, Porter, Clay, Calhoun, Randolph, Lafayette, Edward Thornton, who was British charge d'affaires from 1800 to 1803, and many other notables. We had another Thornton as British diplomatic representative to this country in later years—Sir Edward Thornton who was British Minister at Washington from 1868 until 1881. When the executive mansion was burned by the British in 1814 the Madisons went over to the Octagon House and occupied it for some time. During that occupancy

the Treaty of Ghent, which terminated the War of 1812, was signed by Madison. After the inauguration of Monroe as President he was escorted in March, 1817, to the Octagon, the White House not having been restored. For some years the Octagon was vacant, and, after sheltering many minor occupants, it was finally acquired, in 1902, by the American Institute of Architects, prominent members of which regarded the Octagon as one of the finest architectural examples in the country.

Shortly after the departure of the Madisons from the Octagon, another famous house sprang up in the same neighborhood—the Van Ness mansion, built by General John P. Van Ness, of New York, in 1820, on what is now to be the site of the new Carnegie home for the Bureau of American Republics. The Van Ness house is on 17th Street south of the new Continental Hall of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the grounds occupy an entire city square which once included the old cottage of Davy Burnes, the Scotchman, whose only daughter, the beautiful Marcia Burnes, became the wife of General Van Ness. Prior to the erection of this magnificent house—now going to rack and ruin—its builder lived on 11th Street, between C and D Streets. During the period beginning with 1820 the Van Ness Mansion was renowned for its generous hospitality and as a gathering place for Congressmen.

Franklin Square has been another center for the grouping of houses destined to become the homes of famous men of the nation. The large brick structure at the northwest corner of 13th and K Streets was used as the Mexican Legation about the close of the Civil War when Senor Matias Romero was Mexican Minister to the United States. During his occupancy of this house Senor Romero was visited several times by Gen-

eral U. S. Grant. On one such occasion Romero brought to Grant's notice facts about the activity of certain men who had planted themselves at Galveston, Texas, in furtherance of the movement against Juarez, the deposed ruler of Mexico, then struggling for power with the troops of the usurper. The result of this conference between Grant and Romero was the prompt arrest of the Galveston revolutionary coterie by the American authorities.

The third house west of the former Mexican Legation on K Street is the one in which the Treaty of Washington, for the settlement of claims growing out of the depredations of the Confederate cruiser *Alabama* was signed May 8, 1871. This house was used for the meetings of the Joint High Commission which framed the treaty. The personnel of the Commission included Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, Associate Justice Samuel Nelson of the United States Supreme Court, Robert C. Schenck who was American Minister to England, Attorney General Rockwood Hoar, Senator Williams of Oregon, the Earl de Gray, the Earl of Nippon, Sir Stratford Henry Northcote, Sir Edward Thornton who was British Minister to Washington and Sir Edward McDonald of the Privy Council of Canada. The clerks of the commission during its deliberations in this house were Lord Tenterton and J. C. Bancroft Davis.

Viscount Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador, now occupies the large stone-front mansion at 1321 K Street, which was built by former Secretary of State John Sherman, who also lived and died there. When Sherman first came to Washington, he boarded a while at Willard's old hotel. Then he went down by the Capitol to reside in what was an old fashionable portion of Washington. One day he told Mrs. Sherman:

"I have bought a house out on Franklin Square."

The place he purchased was then surrounded by an old board fence and was "so far out" that Mrs. Sherman felt as though she were going "into the country" to live. Sherman bought several lots on each side of his lot, and, while serving as Secretary of the Treasury, under Hayes, he put up a house on this Franklin Square property. It afterwards became the home of the Chilean Legation. Finally Sherman erected what is now the home of the Japanese Ambassador.

Adjoining the Sherman house on the west is the three-story brick house, in front of which are two large magnolia trees, at 1325 K Street. Lincoln's great War Secretary—Edwin M. Stanton—lived there in December, 1869, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court by Grant, but died in this house four days later, and never filled the appointment. Next to the Stanton home, on the west, is the former residence of Charles Astor Bristed, a nephew of the great Astor, the first John Jacob Astor. In the forties the north side of K Street, between 12th and 13th was known as "Franklin Row." In the center of the square were three houses then regarded as elegant. Two of them were used by Col. Truman Cross—one of the first men killed in the Mexican War—and by Commodore A. S. Wadsworth of the Navy. Further east on K Street was "Walker's Row," between 8th and 9th Streets. James A. Garfield, during his service in the House of Representatives and before his election to the Presidency, lived at the northeast corner of 13th and I Streets in 1879. The number of his house was then 1227 I Street. In the next block, on the south side of I Street, fronting Franklin Square, is the house in which Constantine Catacasy lived, in 1869, while serving as Russian Minister to the United States.

Walking a block farther west, along I Street, we come to the present Mexican Embassy, at 1415 I Street, which was formerly the home of Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite of the United States Supreme Court. Simon Cameron's home was at the northeast corner of 15th and I Streets and Benjamin F. Butler also lived there before he built the big mansion opposite the United States Capitol. Across the street is the house at the southeast corner of 15th and I Streets, which afterwards became the famous old Chamberlin Club, another former rendezvous of national statesmen and wits. Just below it, at 821 15th Street, northwest, lived James G. Blaine during the Hayes Administration, and, General William Tecumseh Sherman, who was then general commanding the army resided at 817 15th Street. A little below that, but diagonally across the street, where The Shoreham now stands, was the house built by Samuel Harrison Smith of the *National Intelligencer*. It afterwards became the residence of Representative Samuel Hopper of Massachusetts who rented it to General McClellan who used it as his Washington residence and lived there when he was restored by Lincoln to the command of the Army of the Potomac in 1862.

On the opposite corner was Wormley's Hotel, afterwards the Colonial, now razed for a new banking structure. Wormley's was famous for its celebrities. Roscoe Conkling lived there as Senator from New York in 1879. John Hay "stopped" there at the same time while serving as Assistant Secretary of State under Evarts, who then lived opposite McPherson Square at what is now 1507 K Street, which, in later years, became the home of Representative Robert R. Hitt of Illinois. John Sherman lived in that period at 1323 K Street, Don Cameron was then living at 1705 K Street,

Senator Henry L. Dawes was then residing at 1409 K Street and Senator George H. Pendleton was then at 1301 K Street—the house which Minister Romero had previously occupied.

Until last year the former home of Hamilton Fish was to be seen—opposite old John Chamberlain's—at the southwest corner of 15th and I Streets, but it has now been swallowed up within the newer walls of the mansion of Mr. John R. McLean. Still further west on I Street, fronting Farragut Square, is the residence now occupied as the Russian Embassy by Baron Rosen of the Great Empire of the Slavs. This house was formerly the home of Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin F. Tracy, and was the scene of the terrible Tracy fire.

An apartment house, at the northwest corner of 17th and I Streets, supplants the fine old square house which was erected in 1826, by William Williamson, and was afterwards occupied by brave Major-General Alexander McComb. Westward on the same block are other famous houses, including the one at 1713 I Street where Mrs. James Brown Potter first attracted public attention by her recitation of "Osler Joe" in a Washington drawing room; the one at 1736 I Street where Jefferson Davis lived for a while with Mrs. Davis; and also the plain old building at 1739 I Street, on the northeast corner of the intersection of that thoroughfare with 18th Street, where Harriet Lane Johnston, niece of President Buchanan, lived so many years.

Three blocks west of that was the old Franklin Hotel at 21st and I Streets where Lafayette stopped as a guest in 1825. Lafayette had just been on a visit to the home of Jackson at the "Hermitage" and upon the return of the distinguished Frenchman to Washington he celebrated his sixty-eighth birthday with a visit to the White House. Jackson himself once resided at the

old Franklin Hotel. Peggy O'Neal, the daughter of the former proprietor of the hotel, was courted there by former Secretary of War Eaton.

A walk of twenty blocks eastward along I Street brings one to old "Douglas Row," on the north side of I Street, between New Jersey Avenue and Third Street. All three of the houses in this row were built at the same time, about 1858 and 1859, by Henry M. Rice, who had just entered the Senate from Minnesota, Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, who was then serving as Vice-President. "Douglas Row" was also styled "Minnesota Row" because Senator Rice came from that state.

Douglas moved into the first of these houses at the northwest corner of Second and I Streets, and it was there that he received notification of his Presidential nomination one Saturday evening in 1860 when the Illinois band, direct from the convention which had been held at Baltimore, naming him against Lincoln, Breckinridge and Bell came over to Washington and serenaded Senator Douglas at this residence. The second, or central, house of this row was built for Breckinridge but he never had occasion to move into it. The excitement connected with the development of the Civil War was at its height and the interior of the Breckinridge house had not yet been plastered or papered. But Senator Rice moved into the third of these houses, at 205 I Street, and occupied it until the actual beginning of the war. Douglas died at Chicago, June 3, 1861, after the inauguration of Lincoln, and all three of the houses in "Douglas Row" were then taken over by the federal government for use as the Douglas Hospital, while on the opposite side of the street stood Stanton Hospital. The easternmost of these houses,

201 I Street, was afterwards occupied by the Papal Legation and the westernmost was for many years the residence of the late Matthew G. Emery, the last Mayor of Washington City.

Until about thirty-five years ago C Street, between John Marshall Place and Third Street was one of the most fashionable residence sections of Washington. Near the Metropolitan and the First Presbyterian Churches were grouped the residences of many of the most prominent local or national families. During the Civil War the old New York Hotel stood on the north side of C Street, between 4½ and 6th Streets, and, it was a favorite stopping place for aristocratic officers like General Blenker and his staff.

John A. Dix, who was notable as Secretary of the Treasury in 1860-1, lived at 456 C Street. Stanton lived two doors west of the Metropolitan Church, while practicing law, and also lived there as Attorney General, under Buchanan, at the end of the latter's administration. Stanton was living there when he defended Daniel E. Sickles but went to live on H Street, just west of 14th, when he became Secretary of War and from the latter place he moved into the house on K Street north of Franklin Square. In the block just east of John Marshall Place, on C Street, are the former homes of Senator Thomas H. Benton and of John C. Fremont who eloped with Miss Jessie Benton, the daughter of his famous neighbor. Benton wrote his abridgment of the Debates of Congress in that mansion and died there. Others living in the same square were James Campbell, Postmaster-General under Pierce in 1853, Francis Scott Key who lived for a while in the same neighborhood and a score of other prominent families.

Daniel Webster—after moving from Corcoran House

on Lafayette Square—lived in the house afterward known as the Webster Law Building, on the north side of D Street, between 5th and 6th Streets. This building was demolished to make way for the eastern wing of the present new police court structure. Webster was residing there when he received the joyful news of the nomination of his dear friend, General Winfield Scott to the Presidency in 1852. There formerly stood at the northwest corner of 6th and C Streets the old Crutchet house where Alexander Stephens, Charles Sumner, General Scott, Abraham Lincoln and other distinguished men of their era dined. A block further north is the solid old house at the northwest corner of 6th and E Streets where Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase lived, and west of that was the home of Caleb Cushing at 609 E Street. Three blocks further westward James Buchanan boarded for a while at 918 E Street, at what was then one of the many Congressional "messes" for which Washington was famous. Buchanan was then a Senator.

Along F Street between 9th and the Treasury—a thoroughfare better known locally as the "Ridge" during the early days of the city—were a number of historic homes. Thomas U. Walter, architect of the Capitol building resided at 614 F Street and Henry Clay lived on F Street between 12th and 13th Streets part of his official life. The old United States bank building stood in that street, and, during the Hayes administration the blocks between 13th and 15th, on F Street, contained the offices of many well-known newspaper correspondents. At the time of his election to the Presidency, John Quincy Adams, who had been Secretary of State under Monroe, lived at 1333 F Street, where the present Adams Building is to be seen. After his inauguration Adams returned from

the Capitol to this F street residence, though he later went to the White House, which had not been completely restored at the time of his inauguration.

This paper gives only a touch-and-go acquaintance with some of the very many historic houses of the nation's capital. The mansions and homes to which reference has been made have been touched only sketchily, and, they really constitute but a very small percentage of the very many famous houses in Washington. And—after all that has been said we have not travelled very far from the heart of the city in the middle days of the nineteenth century. No mention has been made of the wonderful group of very interesting mansions over in Georgetown such as “Tudor Place,” the “Cedars” where the Calhouns lived, the Key mansion, which has been saved by public-spirited citizens from desecration, the Benjamin Stoddert house and the many other famous places in the West End; nor of the scores of homes in what was the old First Ward of Washington along E, F and G Streets and their intersecting thoroughfares in the section west of the State, War and Navy Department building; nor of Pennsylvania Avenue from 17th Street westward to the Rock Creek bridge; nor of the famous houses of that section of South Washington, along or below the Mall, where the elite of Washington resided in the early days of the government; nor of Southeast Washington; nor of Capitol Hill; nor of Carroll Row; nor of the mansion which General Washington built on North Capitol Street; nor of the “mess” where Lincoln lived when he first came to Washington and sought a patent for a collapsible boat for the shallow waters of the Mississippi; nor of the house where the great James McNiell Whistler lived as a government draughtsman long before he went abroad to gain fame as an artist;

nor of the stopping place of Edgar Allan Poe when he came here in connection with his enlistment into the army under the assumed name of Edgar Allan "Perry"; nor of "Edgewood," "Tunlaw" and many, many courtly old mansions around the fringe of the city; nor of the greater ones that have come with the growth and development of Washington. Not only are there hundreds of history-made houses here; but there are also hundreds of houses and scores of hostelries in which history is being made every minute in this national maelstrom of American political, diplomatic and social activity, and, this history is sometimes made so subtly that it will be difficult to identify some of the houses except by reference to the fact that some one or another famous men were their tenants.

REPRINTS.

THE SESSFORD ANNALS.

The annual statements of the material progress of the city prepared by John Sessford are now for the first time brought together. Beginning with the year 1822, these narratives form an unbroken sequence, with the exception of two years, down to and including the year 1859. As far as known, their only form of publication was in the columns of the *National Intelligencer*, although it is evident from copies that have been preserved that at times broad sides were struck off.

For a period of nearly forty years, these reviews were one of the features of the *National Intelligencer* and while Mr. Sessford announces in the one for the year 1860 that it was the fiftieth statement of the sort he had prepared, there is no record of the publication of any except these herewith printed.

The first in the series appeared in the *Intelligencer* in January, 1823, and was a review of the preceding twelve months. The files of that paper were carefully searched as far back as 1818 without finding a prior publication. The series from January, 1822, to January, 1860, is complete with the exception of the statement for 1824 and 1837.

There is no record of the kind that is at all as complete and covers such a long period as this. Even the annual messages of the mayors of the city, which were supposed to review to some extent the material history of the city for the preceding year, were not always made and when made, were not always printed, so that there are wide breaks in their sequence.

The painstaking work which the preparation of these

annual reviews require, as well as the fidelity with which this entirely voluntary labor was continued from year to year is creditable alike to the character and the public spirit of the author. Mr. Sessford, who was of Scotch parentage, though a native of Northumberland Co., England, came to this country when a young man. Shortly afterwards he settled in Washington, the date being conjectured to be about 1802. He was a printer by trade and at one time was foreman of the composing room of the *National Intelligencer*. Some six years after his arrival in Washington, about the year 1808, he received an appointment in the Treasury Department and remained in that employment to the time of his death which occurred February 23, 1862.

"Of pure, moral, blameless life," says the *Intelligencer* in an account of his death, "intelligent and useful as a citizen, he was respected by everybody in the city." Mr. Sessford had reached the age of eighty-six at the time of his death. During his residence in Washington of some sixty years, he occupied a house on the south side of D Street or Penna. Avenue, between 11th and 12th Streets, a portion of the site now occupied by the Post Office Department Building.

W. B. BRYAN.

TO THE EDITORS.

Gentlemen: I enclose you for publication an exhibit of the improvements in Washington City in 1822; together with the Census of the District, as taken by the Marshal in 1820, with the probable population of the City at this time.

JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Stores.	Additions.	Total dwlgs. in city Jan. 1, 1823.
1	5	2	7	1	2	451
2	12	9	21	3	1	460
3	30	19	49	3	1	516
4	2	8	10	—	1	269
5	2	4	6	—	—	246
6	13	7	20	—	1	404
	<u>64</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2,346</u>

CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
TAKEN IN THE SUMMER OF 1820.

Wards.	Whites.	Slaves.	Free Col'd.	Total.	Probable popul'n 1st Jan., 1822, at 6% to a house, result of census of 1820.
1	1,785	532	491	2,808	2,856
2	1,776	355	336	2,467	2,913
3	1,977	306	267	2,550	3,268
4	1,086	296	228	1,610	1,703
5	956	258	239	1,453	1,558
6	2,026	198	135	2,359	2,558
	<u>9,605</u>	<u>1,945</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>13,247</u>	<u>14,856</u>
Georgetown	4,940	1,526	894	7,360	
Residue					
Wash. Co.	1,512	1,049	168	2,729	
Alexandria	5,615	1,423	1,168	8,218	
Residue					
Alexan'a Co.	941	422	122	1,485	
Total	<u>13,006</u>	<u>4,432</u>	<u>2,352</u>	<u>19,792</u>	
District total	22,614	6,377	4,084	33,039	

First Ward.—A considerable addition to the Market House, with a commodious and useful room over it; a Bell placed in the steeple of St. John's Church; the ground on the north fronts of the State and Treasury Departments levelled and enclosed.

Second Ward.—Several of the brick footways authorized by law have been completed, and the cast-iron pipes for the conveyance of the water from K Street spring have been delivered, and will be put down in the spring.

Third Ward.—Brick footways have been laid on several

streets; a steeple has been raised on the Unitarian Church, and a Bell placed in it; a considerable progress has been made in filling the low grounds east of Seventh Street west, and south of Pennsylvania Avenue; and other improvements made. The turnpike road leading from Seventh Street to Rockville has already become of great utility to this ward and the city generally.

Fourth Ward.—One or two brick pavements have been made; the exterior of the west front of the Capitol is completed, and the dome on the centre is enclosed; the Capitol Square is enclosed with an iron railing containing $20\frac{1}{2}$ acres—length of footway outside is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and 185 feet—

Length of front of the Capitol	350 ft.	} Covering 1½ acres & 1820 ft.
Depth of wings	120	
East projection	65	
West “	83	
Height of wings on top of balustrades	70	
do to top of centre dome	120	
Length of Representative Hall	90	
Height do do	60	
Length of Senate Chamber	74	
Breadth do do	42	
Diameter of rotunda	96	
Height do	96	

Fifth Ward.—Some street improvements.

Sixth Ward.—A substantial brick wall has been built around the Marine Barracks.

DEATHS IN THE CITY IN 1822.

Adults	157
Children	139
Total	296

Of the Following Diseases:

Apoplexy	1	Convulsions	16
Burn	2	Cholic	11
Cholera	17	Croup	4
morbus	18	Contusion	1
infantum	4	Casualty	2
Consumption	44	Cancer	1

Drowned	3	Parturition	1
Dysentery	3	Phrenitis	1
Dropsy	7	Pneumonia	10
brain	5	Pleurisy	10
chest	1	Palsy	2
Duel	1	Spine, injury of	1
Enteritis	2	Scurvy	1
Fractured skull	1	Still born	6
Fever	34	Sudden	5
typhus	4	Suicide	5
bilious	38	Sore throat	1
intermittent	3	Thrush	1
puerperal	2	Unknown	1
Hepatitis	1	Ulcers	1
Intemperance	5	Worms	11
Marasmus	2	Wound	2
Old age	7		

February 7, 1823.

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

The enclosed statement of the improvements in Washington City, for the last two years, is forwarded to you for publication, for the information of the citizens; together with a recapitulation, of the monthly reports of deaths, and the diseases, which will show that the sarcasms, as to the unhealthiness of the place, are unjust and malicious.

JOHN SESSFORD.

In 1823.

	Houses.	Shops.	Total Dwellings.
First Ward	9	2	460
Second "	20	1	480
Third "	20	2	536
Fourth "	12	2	281
Fifth "			246
Sixth "	8		412
Total	69	7	2,415

In 1824.

First Ward	11	2	471
Second "	13	3	493
Third "	19	1	555

Fourth Ward	1		282
Fifth "	2		248
Sixth "	3		415
	<u>49</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2,464</u>

At $6\frac{1}{2}$ to each house (the result of the census of 1820), the present population of the city amounts to 16,605, exclusive of those in the fort, barracks, and navy yard, being in the public service.

The improvements in the city in 1823 and 1824, of a public nature, have been considerable.

First Ward.—There have been about 1,200 feet in length of curb and brick pavement put down, under the corporation laws, and about 2,600 by the United States, making 3,800 running feet. A house for the Branch Bank has been built, and the carriage way on the north front of the President's House has been completely graduated and gravelled. The south Portico of the President's House has been completed; but the view of it is much obstructed by the placing of stables, etc., against the wall facing Pennsylvania avenue, and on the south front of the offices.

Second Ward.—This Ward has laid down about 1,500 feet of pavement, and the United States has laid 808 feet—in all 2,308 feet, besides several flag crossings. Cast iron pipes have been laid from north G street to F, and along F to 12th; thence down 12th to the Pennsylvania avenue, a distance of about 1,700 feet, with seven additional outlets, besides throwing an additional supply into the old line, which ends at 14th street, near Williamson's Tavern. This Spring affords more than two barrels per minute. The low ground between 10th and 12th streets, adjoining the creek has been nearly filled. The interests of this and the Third Ward would be greatly benefited by the widening of the near draw of the bridge, so as to admit the unobstructed passage of lumber-vessels with their deck-loads on, instead of having to lay below to unload in part before they can pass up to the mouth of the Tyber; and, in connection with this, an effort ought to be made to deepen the channel from the Tyber lead-

ing to Georgetown sufficient to admit the passage of small craft and steamboats, which, it is believed, might be accomplished in two or three weeks, by means of drags affixed to the stern of steam boats, and at a very trifling expense, probably not more than \$500.

Third Ward.—In this Ward more than 3,000 feet of pavement have been laid, of which about one sixth has been by the United States, besides flag crossings; a house for the Patriotic Bank, at the corner of 7th and D streets—considerable progress has been made in filling the low grounds adjoining the creek, and the wall on the north side of the Tyber, from 7th to 12th, including that around the basin at the Market-house has been constructed by the Canal Company. The incorporation of this Company has materially impeded the progress of the centre part of the city, by precluding any efforts on the part of the citizens to improve the navigation of the creek and the erection of wharves thereon, which would have been done years ago if the power over it had been in the Council, instead of a few privileged individuals. The Canal Company was re-incorporated on the 16th of February, 1809, and were to complete their work according to the 13th section—"That all public property shall pass through the said Canal free of toll, and, also, that, in case the said Canal and one of the forks thereof, shall not be completed within the term of seven years from the passage of this act, in such manner as to admit boats and scows drawing three feet water to pass through the same, that the said Canal shall revert to the United States, and all right and authority hereby granted to the said Company shall cease and determine." Now it is evident that they were bound to accomplish the object before the 16th of February, 1816, or suffer the same to revert to the United States, who, no doubt, would have transferred the right to the City under such equitable conditions as would have remunerated the Canal Company for the amount of expenses then incurred. It is not yet too late to act on the subject. The Orphans' Court and the Office of the Register of Wills have been removed to the City Hall. Some conveniences have also been made to the Market House.

Fourth Ward.—385 feet of pavement has been laid by the United States, and ——— feet by the Ward. In this Ward is the Capitol, the work on which has progressed rapidly towards completion, the state of which will probably be furnished by the proper authority.

Fifth Ward.—An extensive wharf has been erected for the accommodation of the Southern Steam Boat Line, but nothing of a public nature.

Sixth Ward.—Considerable improvements have been made in the Navy Yard, and the Dry Dock is rapidly progressing.

REPORT OF DEATHS IN THE CITY.

	In 1823.			In 1824.		
	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total
January	16	9	25	11	23	34
February	12	8	20	11	19	30
March	13	9	22	15	15	30
April	8	9	17	8	17	25
May	10	6	16	9	10	19
June	7	8	15	6	7	13
July	9	13	22	9	15	24
August	13	22	35	14	15	29
September	33	29	62	17	16	33
October	32	24	56	9	8	17
November	13	19	32	13	6	19
December	11	23	34	11	6	17
	177	179	356	133	157	290

Of the Following Diseases:

	1823.	1824.		1823.	1824
Apoplexy	0	4	Contusion	1	3
Asthma	1	0	Casualty	3	1
Aneurism	2	0	Cancer	1	1
Abscess	0	2	Childbed	4	2
Affection of the heart ...	0	1	Cramp	4	0
Burn	1	1	Drunkenness	1	3
Cholera	25	23	Drowned	1	2
morbus	0	0	Dysentery	6	4
infantum	0	0	Dropsy	5	7
Consumption	44	28	brain	6	9
Convulsions	24	13	chest	5	2
Colic	7	4	Diarrhoea	1	0
Croup	8	7	Decay or hepatitis	12	18

Epilepsy	0	1	Murder	1	1
Eruption	0	1	Mortification	0	1
Fever	48	13	Old age	5	9
typhus	9	10	Obstruction of windpipe	0	1
Fever, bilious	48	9	Pneumonia	19	12
puerperal	2	4	Pleurisy	6	5
intermittent	9	6	Quincy	1	1
inflammatory	0	1	Still born	3	10
Gangrene	1	2	Sudden	5	0
Gout	0	2	Sore throat	1	0
Headache	1	0	Teething	1	2
Hooping cough	11	6	Tetanus	1	1
Haemorrhage of lungs ...	1	0	Ulcers	2	2
Inflammation of brain ...	3	2	Unknown	0	7
liver	4	1	Worms	8	4
Lightning	0	1	Wound	0	1
Measles	11	37			
				356	290

The Columbia Turnpike, leading into Virginia, has undergone considerable repair, and the bridges which had been carried away rebuilt in a substantial manner. From the western termination of this road, upwards of three miles of turnpike have been made this summer, within Fairfax county, joining the Little River Turnpike, about nine miles from the city. The Rockville road, from the District, has been opened and formed for three miles, thus connecting the whole line between the two places. The travel on this road is very considerable. A good road has also been made through the Columbian College ground, and great improvements have been made to the College, and the grounds around it enclosed and beautified.

Monday, January 10, 1825.

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: I present you for publication, a notice of the improvements in the City of Washington, within the year 1825; also a Tabular Statement of the number of deaths in each month, and the diseases.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 14, 1826.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Dwellings.	Stores.	Additions.
1	7	5	12	2	2
2	5	11	16	5	2
3	23	10	33	7	4
4	1	2	3		1
5				1	1
6	3		3		
	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>

Wards.	Total of Buildings.	Supposed population.
1	483	3,059
2	509	3,223
3	588	3,724
4	285	1,805
5	248	1,570
6	418	2,644
	<u>2,531</u>	<u>16,025</u>

The estimated population is founded on the census of 1820, which averaged 6½ to each dwelling house, exclusive of those at the Arsenal, Navy Yard, &c. which belongs to the United States.

The improvements of the year, although less in number than in some former years, have been more expensive and permanent.

In the First Ward, some new streets have been opened, and others improved. About nine hundred running feet of brick pavement have been laid, and provision has been made by law to curb and pave both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue from 17th to 22d Street, which will be commenced early this season. This footway will add much to the beauty and comfort of that portion of the Ward; but, in order to obtain all the desired advantages from this improvement, it should be continued to Georgetown, and the open space done at the same time by the public. The ground within the enclosure of the President's House has been nearly levelled, and prepared for laying out in walks, &c.

Second Ward.—The graduation of new streets has been less than usual, but much has been done in connecting the different parts, by good pavements and flag crossings, of

which, upwards of two thousand running feet have been laid, and the low grounds, in part, filled up.

Third Ward.—This Ward increases rapidly in every respect. Not less than five thousand running feet of brick pavement have been made by the Ward and the United States. The low grounds, south of Pennsylvania Avenue, are now nearly filled up, and two squares on the margin have been neatly enclosed and planted with trees, and the Commissioners of the low grounds are doing every thing they can to improve and embellish them, which will, in a few years, afford a delightful promenade. We are indebted for this, and a considerable portion of the footways on the Avenue, to the liberality of Congress. The Centre Market is well supplied with almost every article at a reasonable rate, and much crowded; but too little attention is paid to the cleanliness of the grounds around it, and too contracted for the number of wagons, &c. which attend it.

Fourth Ward.—About six hundred running feet of pavement have been laid, and some street improvements made. The Eastern Portico of the Capitol has been carried up and completed, and has a splendid appearance. The grand stairway has been commenced, and the ornamental works in the Rotundo, do great credit to the artists employed on them.

Fifth Ward.—But little has been done;—at the Arsenal a considerable range of buildings has been erected, and additional stores.

Sixth Ward.—Some improvements have been made on the streets, but it is much to be regretted that so little has been done towards making permanent footways, particularly as the population is considerably concentrated. An attention to this would give new life to the place, and enhance the value of all the contiguous property. In the Navy Yard, the keel of a frigate has been laid, of the same size and model of the *Brandywine*, and the keel of a sloop of war.

The general appearance of the city has been greatly improved. Many new and extensive stores have been opened by persons from the neighboring cities, and business in general good for mechanics; but it is much to be regretted that

there is such a general disposition shewn to reduce the pay of the laborers to so small a pittance, and to the introduction and employment of non-resident slaves; a policy which is injurious to the interests of the city.

By the following table, in a condensed form, it will be seen that the city for the last year, was remarkably healthy.

Diseases.	Total.	Diseases.	Total.
Apoplexy	4	Fracture	1
Asthma	1	Gangrene	3
Burn	1	Hæmorrhoids	2
Cholera	14	Hooping Cough	16
Do Infantum	23	Inflammation of liver	1
Consumption	29	Do brain	1
Convulsions	16	Influenza	4
Cholic	4	Liver complaint	5
Croup	6	Mania	1
Contusion	2	Old age	6
Casualty	1	Pneumonia	3
Childbed	2	Palsy	1
Chicken Pock	1	Rickets	1
Drunkenness	4	Stillborn	10
Drowned	2	Sudden	10
Dysentery	1	Suicide	1
Dropay, brain	5	Teething	4
Do chest	2	Unknown	4
Decay	7	Worms	4
Fever	4	Adults	104
Do Typhus	1	Children	121
Do Bilious	16		<hr/>
Do Intermittent	1		225

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

The following exhibit of the present population, &c. of the City of Washington, and its progression and increase for the past year, has been prepared for us by the industrious voluntary annualist of the City, Mr. John Sessford.

TO THE EDITORS.

Messrs. Gales and Seaton: For the information of the public I send you for publication an exhibit of improvements made in the City of Washington within the year 1826, together with

the number of deaths in each month, and the diseases; also, a summary table of population and deaths from the year 1820 to the present time.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Dwlg.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Total of bldgs.	Supposed popul'n.
1	11	8	19	5	3	502	3,189
2	9	9	18	6	6	527	3,337
3	36	18	54	12	4	642	4,066
4	4	3	7	1	2	292	1,849
5	—	—	—	—	—	248	1,570
6	2	1	3	1	—	421	2,666
	<u>62</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,632</u>	<u>16,677</u>

The number of dwellings in the City in 1820, compared with the census, gave $6\frac{1}{2}$ to a house, being exclusive of those at the Navy Yard, Arsenal, &c. and the present population is estimated in the same ratio.

The improvements in the City within the year, are generally of a permanent nature and very valuable, and greater than they have been for some years past, in the improvement of streets and rapid extension of paved side ways—ample provision is made for the poor, and the education of youth at the public expense have been productive of great benefit. The present Council have with great unanimity made provision for the permanent endowment of the public schools, by appropriating two-thirds of the amount authorized to be raised by lotteries, viz.: \$40,000, a part of which has been received—the other one-third to the completing of the City Hall.

There was, as nearly as could be ascertained on the 1st of January, 1826, upwards of 54,800 running feet of pavement laid, agreeably to the recorded graduation, besides convenient flag crossings, viz:

In First Ward	11,462	Being 10 miles and 673
Second do	14,728	yards, averaging about
Third Do	22,329	13 feet wide.
Fourth Do	5,274	
Fifth do	755	
Sixth do	272	

And during the past year, there have been 13,907 running feet of pavement laid, beside flag crossings, viz:

In First Ward	6,165
Second	1,849
Third	1,927
Fourth	3,960
Fifth (none)	
Sixth (ditto)	
	<hr/> 13,907

Making 68,727 running feet of pavement on the 12th of January, 1827; greater, perhaps, than any other place (with similar means and as sparse a population) can boast of. Much has been done by the Corporate authorities to remove the cause of diseases, by filling up low places, and draining in every part of the City, at a great expense to the respective Wards and individuals; the general appearance of the City has been greatly improved; many new and extensive stores have been opened; master builders have been under the necessity of obtaining additional workmen from the neighboring cities; brick makers have been fully employed, and not less than eight millions of bricks have been made, and found a ready sale.

First Ward.—Pennsylvania Avenue has been graduated and gravelled, and both sides paved from 17th to 22d street, and several streets greatly improved. The grounds attached to the President's House is now nearly ready for laying off in walks, &c.; the square North of the same is nearly levelled and enclosed; but the view of the President's House is still obstructed by unsightly frame sheds and stables, which ought to be removed, as unsightly to the eye and offensive to the senses.

Second Ward.—Not much has been done in opening new streets—many new footways have been laid, and about 20 lots have been filled up, with the view of improving the Ward and securing health. Extensive additions have been made to Williamson's Tavern.

Third Ward.—This still continues to take the lead in im-

provements of every description; in it many nuisances have been removed; streets and footways made; an addition to the market built, of 200 feet in length; the sides of the canal, for a considerable length, walled and coped, with a neat bridge across it, at four and a half street; great progress made in levelling the ground round the City Hall, preparatory to enclosing and ornamenting with trees; great improvements have been made to Brown's Tavern, and a new and extensive one, to be kept by Mr. Gadsby, is now ready for occupation.

Fourth Ward.—The pavement around the Capitol Square is completed, and several other improvements made.

Fifth Ward.—The sheds and workshops at the Arsenal have been nearly completed, together with an extensive wall to prevent the washing of the banks by the river; considerable progress made with the Penitentiary; of Ward improvements but little has been done.

Sixth Ward.—An addition has been made to the market-house, and some street improvements; in the Navy Yard, some buildings have been erected; and the Potomac frigate, which was hauled up on the Inclined Plane, has been launched. It is much to be regretted that so little has been done to improve the footway.

DISEASES, 1826.

Abscess	1	Dysentery	5
Apoplexy	5	Dropsy	4
Aneurism	1	brain	10
Burn	5	chest	3
Carbuncle	1	Diarrhoea	1
Cholera	1	Decay	16
morbus	1	Derangement, mental	1
infantum	36	Enteritis	1
Consumption	27	Fever	5
Convulsion	13	remittent	5
Cholic	6	intermittent	16
Croup	4	puerperal	4
Casualty	5	typhus	2
Cancer	1	bilious	1
Child bed	6	Gangrene	1
Drinking cold water	1	Hooping cough	13
Drunkennes	1	Marasmus	3

Influenza	10	Sore throat	1
Jaundice	1	Teething	3
Liver complaint	7	Thrush	2
Mumps	1	Unknown	5
Old age	5	Scrophula	1
Rhmatism	2	Worms	3
Pneumonia	10	Wound	1
Pleurisy	2	Adults	140
Stillborn	11	Children	143
Sudden	12		<u>283</u>

DEATHS IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, IN THE YEARS (WITH THE
SUPPOSED POPULATION OF EACH YEAR) FROM 1820.

Years	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826
Deaths	327	355	296	356	290	225	286
Supp'd pop'n	13,474	14,031	14,746	15,183	15,493	16,016	16,677

The City, as well as the District at large, suffers much from the want of a Code of Laws applicable to the whole; for it is now almost impossible for any citizen to say what is the law of the place. Another evil under which they labor arises from the introduction of non resident slaves, who are brought here for sale or hire, great numbers of whom are hired by individuals, by the year, re-hired by the month or day, and many of them employed on the public works, to the great injury of the free laborers, who have families to support, and feel an interest in the welfare of the place, besides adding to its character and physical strength, in the hour of danger.

January 13, 1827.

Messrs. Gales and Seaton: I enclose you for publication an exhibit of the improvements made within the year 1827, and also a tabular statement of the number of deaths in each month, during the same period, &c.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Dwlg.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Total of bldgs.	Supp'd pop'n, &c. to each dwlg.
1	6	8	14	2	3	516	3,268
2	4	25	29	2	4	556	3,521
3	28	43	71	17	16	713	4,516
4	1	1	2	1	1	294	1,862
5	1	4	5	1	—	253	1,602
6	—	2	2	2	2	423	2,679
	<u>40</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2,755</u>	<u>17,448</u>

Wards.	Assessment Jan. 1, 1824.	Assessment Jan. 1, 1825.
1	\$1,533,188	\$1,188,069
2	1,407,582	1,083,199
3	1,635,590	1,302,601
4	1,026,620	503,944
5	808,856	454,261
6	611,082	446,367
	<u>\$7,022,618</u>	<u>\$4,978,441</u>

ASSESSMENT FOR YEARS 1825, 1826, 1827.

	1825		1826		1827	
Wds.	Real.	Personal.	Real.	Personal.	Real.	Personal.
1	\$12,250	\$ 8,200	\$12,140	\$14,500	\$33,275	\$ 8,150
2	12,150	19,970	17,340	16,750	13,130	11,400
3	21,475	11,100	51,240	13,975	67,685	7,350
4		850	4,950	4,900	6,850	2,200
5	1,450	100	310	3,800	250	1,150
6	1,750	2,250	4,850	4,400	2,850	2,450
	<u>\$40,025</u>	<u>\$42,470</u>	<u>\$90,830</u>	<u>\$58,325</u>	<u>\$124,040</u>	<u>\$32,700</u>

Wards.	Assessment Jan. 1, 1828.
1	\$1,276,584
2	1,173,939
3	1,475,426
4	523,694
5	461,821
6	464,917
	<u>\$5,375,881</u>

First Ward.—Several parts of streets have been graduated and gravelled, and improvements on others made. The grounds around the President's House have received the form required for laying off into walks &c. and the Square North of the same is completely enclosed and paved around it. The Glass-Works have been re-commenced by the enterprising proprietors, under favorable prospects.

Second Ward.—But little improvements have been made on the streets, other than those of foot-ways, and the filling up of low grounds. Less progress has been made in filling the streets between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets, than could have been expected. Extensive improvements have been made to the tavern lately occupied by Mr. Tennison.

Third Ward.—A great many solid improvements have been made in this Ward on the carriage ways and side walks, and filling up of low grounds. The levelling of the West section of the City Hall square completed and enclosed, and paved on the South front; the great western room of the Hall finished, and occupied by the Common Council; the new Masonic Hall, and Presbyterian Church, in contemplation last year, have been carried on with spirit, and now occupied, do credit to their founders; the new addition to the Market House occupied; the extensive additions to the National Hotel carried up to the square, and will be finished early in the coming season, which will make it one of the most extensive and commodious taverns in the Union.

Fourth Ward.—The principal improvements of this Ward are those of the Capitol, and around it.

Fifth Ward.—The Penitentiary and keeper's houses are under cover and nearly completed. But little has been done by the Ward itself.

Sixth Ward.—Little progress has been made in improvement.

There were, as nearly as could be ascertained, on the 1st of January, 1827, 68,721 running feet of brick pavement laid, agreeably to the recorded graduation, besides convenient flag crossings, viz:

In the First Ward	17,627
Second	16,577
Third	24,256
Fourth	9,234
Fifth	755
Sixth	272
	<hr/>
	68,721

And during the year past, 12,725 running feet of pavement was laid, besides flag crossings, viz:

First Ward	4,645
Second	3,192
Third	4,888
Fourth	—
Fifth	—
Sixth	—

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS ERECTED FROM 1810 TO 1827 INCLUSIVE,
EXCLUSIVE OF SHOPS, &c. ALSO THE POPULATION AND
NUMBER OF DEATHS.

Year.	Total Dwellings.	Valuation.	No. of Deaths.
1810	37	8,208	
1811	13		
1812	21		
1813	22		
1814	6		
1815	44		
1816	62		
1817	81		
1818	181		
1819	157		
1820	112	13,474	327
1821	88	14,031	355
1822	113	14,746	296
1823	59	15,183	356
1824	49	15,493	290
1825	67	16,016	225
1826	102	16,677	284
1827	123	17,448	251

DEATHS IN 1827.

Apoplexy	4	Dysentery	11
Asthma	1	Decay	9
Abscess	1	Erysipelis	3
Aneurism	1	Enteritis	1
Contusion	1	Fever	2
Consumption	27	typhus	8
Cholera morbus	1	bilious	3
Cholera infantum	35	remittent	2
Convulsion	17	intermittent	10
Colic	1	Gangrene	1
Croup	2	Gastritis	1
Casualty	4	Hemorrhage	1
Calculus	1	Haemoptises	2
Child bed	2	Inflammation of liver	4
Cancer	1	Jaundice	1
Drinking cold water	1	Liver complaint	5
Diarrhoea	3	Measles	2
Dropsy	9	Old age	7
brain	7	Potolysus	1
chest	2	Parturition	2
Drunkenness	4	Pneumonia	7

Pleurisy	6	Unknown	2
Palsy	1	Worms	6
Quincy	1	Wound	1
Rheumatism	2	Adults	124
Stillborn	17	Children	127
Sudden	4		
Scrofula	4		251

February 5, 1828.

TO THE EDITORS.

Gentlemen: The following Statement exhibits the Improvements within the year 1828, the inhabitants supposed at $6\frac{1}{2}$ to each dwelling house—a statement of the old assessment, and the new general assessment made in 1824, together with the valuations of the additional in each year since then—also, a list of the deaths and diseases; a publication of which may gratify some of your readers.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 7, 1829.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Dwigs. Jan. 1, 1829.	Supposed popul'n.
1	7	12	19	3	4	549	3,477
2	29	25	54	5	6	608	3,850
3	35	40	75	14	13	764	4,837
4	2	5	7	—	—	298	1,887
5	—	—	—	—	—	256	1,621
6	2	1	3	1	—	426	2,698
	73	85	158	23	23	2,901	18,370

STATEMENT OF THE OLD AND NEW ASSESSMENTS, AND THE YEARLY
ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR 1825, '26, '27, '28.

Wards.	Old Ass'm't of real and pers'l. prior to 1824.	General Ass'm't in 1824. Real.	Pers'l.
1	\$1,533,188	\$1,058,194	\$129,875
2	1,407,582	994,834	88,635
3	1,635,590	1,209,136	93,465
4	1,026,620	461,439	42,505
5	808,856	436,011	18,250
6	611,082	414,172	32,195
	\$7,022,618	\$4,573,786	\$404,655
		\$404,655	
		\$4,978,441	

Reprints.

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Wards.	Additional, 1826.		Additional, 1826.		Additional, 1827.	
	Real.	Pers'l.	Real.	Pers'l.	Real.	Pers'l.
1	\$12,250	\$ 8,200	\$12,140	\$14,500	\$33,275	\$ 8,150
2	12,150	19,970	17,340	16,750	13,130	11,409
3	21,475	11,100	51,240	13,975	67,885	7,350
4		850	4,950	4,900	6,850	2,200
5	1,450	100	310	3,800	250	1,150
6	1,750	2,250	4,850	4,400	2,850	2,450
	<u>\$49,075</u>	<u>\$42,470</u>	<u>\$90,830</u>	<u>\$58,325</u>	<u>\$124,040</u>	<u>\$32,700</u>
	42,470		58,325		32,700	
	<u>\$91,545</u>		<u>\$149,155</u>		<u>\$156,740</u>	

Wards.	Additional, 1828.		Amount for 1828.	
	Real.	Pers'l.	Real.	Pers'l.
1	\$ 52,675	\$10,350	\$1,168,534	\$171,075
2	33,950	10,550	1,071,404	147,305
3	198,522	9,650	1,548,058	135,540
4	2,000	3,050	475,239	53,505
5	2,250	300	440,271	24,100
6	4,700	2,040	428,322	43,345
	<u>\$294,097</u>	<u>\$36,450</u>	<u>\$5,131,828</u>	<u>\$574,870</u>
	36,450		574,870	
	<u>\$330,547</u>		<u>\$5,706,698</u>	

Wards.	Total, Dec. 31, 1828. Real and pers'l.	Amount of tax, at 56 cents to 100 dollars.
1	\$1,339,609	\$7,501.81
2	1,218,709	6,823.77
3	1,683,598	9,428.14
4	528,744	2,960.96
5	464,371	2,600.47
6	471,677	2,641.33
	<u>\$5,706,698</u>	<u>\$31,956.48</u>

First Ward.—But little improvement has been made within this year and in graduating of streets and paving footways &c. The private improvements are good.

Second Ward.—Several streets have been opened, graduated, and gravelled, beside which a considerable portion of the streets and lots between 12th and 13th streets have been filled—and upwards of 1,000 feet of pipe for the conveyance of water has been laid.

Third Ward.—On the Market Square great improvements

have been made, by graduating, and laying of brick pavements, and much has been done towards improving the streets—a new and handsome bridge, built across the Canal at 7th street, 150 feet long by 80 wide—the National Hotel nearly completed and in Pennsylvania Avenue, front of it, is accommodation for the Bank of Washington. Three new Churches, one for Episcopalians, one for Methodists, and one for Presbyterians—an extensive addition to the General Post Office building, for the better accommodation of the Patent Office and the City Post Office. A large reservoir of the finest spring water has been erected at the intersection of D and Indiana Avenue, from which a line of more than 2,500 running feet of iron pipes has been laid—and the line of wooden pipes ending at 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue has been continued along the Avenue and across it a distance of more than 600 feet, feeding two reservoirs, and affording considerable surplus for future extension—a neat and extensive Orphan's Asylum has been erected, &c.

Fourth Ward.—The principal improvements in this ward are those in and around the Capitol, which are all of a permanent nature; the walks around it are delightful.

Fifth Ward.—Some Corporation work has been done—the Penitentiary and Keeper's houses are completed, and only await the passage of a law, for the organization of the establishment.

Sixth Ward.—In this ward not much has been done, either of a public or private nature—the improvements in the Navy Yard still go on, and there has been built and launched from under the shed, a beautiful sloop of war, the St. Louis, which has gone to sea.

The number of running feet brick pavement laid prior to January 1, 1828, was

First Ward	22,722
Second	19,469
Third	29,144
Fourth	9,204
Fifth	755
Sixth	275
	<hr/>
	81,599

And during the year 1828 there has been laid

First Ward	567
Second	5,177
Third	4,322
	<hr/> 10,066

Making the whole number of running feet in 1st of January, 1829—91,665.

From this city there sets out for Baltimore 5 Stages daily, every morning, viz:

One at half past 5, 6, and 8, and at 9 and 10 o'clock.

To Fredericktown, daily at 5 P. M.

Alexandria do at 9 A. M.

do do at 4 P. M.

do do at 3 P. M.

Annapolis, Mon., Wed., and Fr. 6 A. M.

Piscataway, &c. Sun. and Wed.

Steam Boats

To Alexandria twice a day, 9 A. M. and 5 P. M.

Alexandria and Fredericksburg daily at noon.

Norfolk every Wednesday.

Baltimore every Tuesday.

And from Georgetown to Alexandria twice a day.

LIST OF DISEASES AND DEATHS IN 1828.

Diseases.		Diseases.	
Apoplexy	3	Dropsy	6
Asthma	1	Dropsy of the brain	8
Angina Pectoris	1	Drunkenness	7
Burn	4	Decay	11
Contusion	1	Drowned	3
Consumption	37	Enteritis	1
Cholera morbus	1	Fever	1
infantum	32	Typhus	4
Convulsion	18	Bilious	12
Cholic	4	Intermittent	1
Croup	2	Gout	1
Casualty	1	Gangrene	1
Congestion	1	Hemorrhage	3
Diarrhoea	5	Inflam. of Brain	2

Influenza	7	Syncope	1
Liver Complaint	5	Serofula	1
Old Age	5	Suicide	1
Parturition	2	Teething	1
Pneumonia	18	Varioloid	1
Pleurisy	3	Unknown	3
Palsy	1	Worms	6
Quincy	1	Adults	127
Rheumatism	3	Children	127
Stillborn	16		
Sudden	3		254

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The following table of Buildings within the city is made from an actual count this year, brought up to January 1st, 1830, and the assessments from an addition of the returns of the Assessors, which has been prepared for publication by our accurate and industrious fellow citizen Mr. John Sessford.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF DWELLINGS, &c. ASSESSMENT VALUE OF
PROPERTY IN 1829, AND OLD ASSESSMENTS.

	Shops and separate from dwellings.	Public building.	Squares on which are improvements.
1st Ward	50	13	129
2nd "	57	14	83
3rd "	87	22	95
4th "	9	8	64
5th "	8	6	58
6th "	23	8	72
Total	234	71	503

DWELLINGS ON 1ST OF JANUARY, 1830.

	Of Brick.	Of Wood.	Total.
1st Ward	283	288	571
2d "	321	316	637
3d "	499	386	885
4th "	137	179	316
5th "	91	129	220
6th "	161	264	425
Total	1,492	1,562	3,054

ASSESSMENTS MADE IN 1829.

	Personal.	Buildings.	Lots.	Total.
1st Ward	\$133,600	\$620,783	\$ 760,496	\$1,518,877
2d "	131,600	671,605	752,538	1,555,743
3d "	183,370	999,475	1,132,336	2,315,181
4th "	43,150	250,200	290,603	583,953
5th "	24,175	169,810	334,986	528,971
6th "	36,125	208,585	217,075	461,785
Total	\$552,020	\$2,924,458	\$3,488,032	\$6,964,510

OLD ASSESSMENTS.

	Prior to 1824.	Made in 1824.
1st Ward	\$1,533,188	\$1,188,069
2d "	1,407,582	1,083,469
3d "	1,635,590	1,302,601
4th "	1,026,620	503,944
5th "	808,856	454,270
6th "	611,082	446,367
Total	\$7,022,618	\$4,978,720

April 29, 1830.

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

ANNUAL STATEMENT—By JOHN SESSFORD. FEBY. 7, 1831.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Additions.	Census Jan. 1830.	Census of 1820.
1	15	23	38	2	1	3,677	2,808
2	21	18	39	6	3	4,058	2,467
3	49	36	85	16	9	5,751	2,550
4		4	4		1	1,861	1,610
5	1	11	12			1,357	1,453
6						2,131	2,359
	86	92	178	24	14	18,836	13,247

ASSESSMENT VALUATION, DECEMBER 31, 1830.

Wards.	Buildings.	Lots.	Personal.	Total.	Tax on at 56 cts. on \$100.	Running feet of brick pavement laid in 1830.
1	\$ 657,833	\$ 760,494	\$153,150	\$1,571,477	\$ 8,800.27	3,775
2	724,705	752,538	139,890	1,617,133	9,055.94	3,515
3	1,105,855	1,132,336	200,420	2,438,611	13,656.22	385
4	253,100	290,603	45,120	588,823	3,297.40	
5	174,410	334,986	24,475	533,871	2,989.67	
6	209,139	217,075	37,225	463,435	2,595.23	
	\$3,125,038	\$3,488,032	\$600,280	\$7,213,350	\$40,394.76	7,675

First Ward.—The principal ward improvements, have been the laying of foot pavements on F, G, and K streets, and the opening of I from 22d to the Canal basin.

Second Ward.—Twelfth street has been cut down to its proper graduation, and gravelled across the Mall—a considerable extent of filling of lots under water, west of 12th, and laying brick footways south of Pennsylvania Avenue. The Rotunda is now occupied by a neat and handsome Museum.

Third.—Some good improvements have been made, but much short of what has been done in it for several years past—a frame Baptist Meeting House has been erected South of the Mall, near 4½ street.

In the remaining Wards, little other than casual repairs has been done.

LIST OF DEATHS AND DISEASES IN 1830.

Diseases.		Diseases.	
Apoplexy	5	Gout	1
Asthma	1	Hemorrhage	1
Angina Pectoris	1	Hooping Cough	6
Burn	3	Inflamm. of brain	4
Contusion	2	Influenza	1
Croup	2	Liver Complaint	4
Consumption	46	Measles	23
Cholera Infantum	39	Old Age	5
Convulsion	15	Pneumonia	16
Colic	2	Pleurisy	7
bilious	3	Palsy	2
Cancer	1	Salivation	2
Drinking cold w'tr	3	Still born	23
Dropsy	13	Sudden	9
brain	9	Scrofula	1
chest	1	Teething	2
Drunkenness	8	Thrush	1
Dysentery	8	Varioloid	1
Decay	17	Unknown	6
Drowned	2	Worms	4
Fever	3	Wound	2
puerperal	3		
typhus	8	Adults	179
bilious	21	Children	160
intermittent	7	Total	339
Gravel	1		

CITY STATISTICS.

I enclose you herewith, for publication, a statistical exhibit of the improvements within the City within the year 1831; also, the assessment valuation of property in the respective Wards, and deaths and diseases for the same period.

JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood	Total no.	Shops, &c.	Additions.
1	5	18	23	12	5
2	29	24	53	8	6
3	25	40	65	17	13
4	1	1	2	—	—
5	—	4	4	—	—
6	—	1	1	1	—
	60	88	148	38	24

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR 1831.

Wards.	Personal.	Buildings.	Total.
1	\$15,850	\$ 39,850	\$ 55,700
2	5,900	42,825	48,725
3	8,600	163,155	171,755
4	1,500	4,000	5,500
5	1,150	7,250	8,400
6	750	875	1,625
	\$33,750	\$257,955	\$291,705

TOTAL ASSESSMENTS.

Wards.	Personal.	Buildings.	Lots.	Total, Dec. 31, 1831.
1	\$169,000	\$ 699,683	\$ 760,494	\$1,629,177
2	145,790	767,530	752,538	1,665,858
3	209,020	1,269,010	1,132,336	2,610,365
4	46,620	257,100	290,803	594,323
5	25,625	181,660	334,986	542,271
6	37,975	210,010	217,075	465,060
	\$634,030	\$3,384,993	\$3,488,032	\$7,507,055

Wards.	No. Dwlg. Dec. 31, 1831.	Other bldgs.	Total Bldgs.
1	632	77	709
2	729	88	817
3	1,035	140	1,175
4	323	16	339
5	236	12	248
6	426	32	458
	3,381	365	3,746

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN THE YEAR 1831.

Diseases.		Diseases.	
Apoplexy	3	bowels	2
Asthma	1	Influenza	12
Burn	5	Jaundice	1
Calculus	1	Measles	1
Consumption	47	Old age	8
Croup	6	Parturition	2
Cholera Morbus	3	Pneumonia	18
Infantum	52	Pleurisy	6
Cholic	3	Palsey	1
Convulsions	9	Poison	1
Dropsy	11	Puerperal fever	1
Brain	9	Quincy	2
Drunkenness	2	Small Pox	6
Dysentery	12	Stillborn	15
Decay	21	Sudden	8
Delirium	1	Syncope	1
Eruption	1	Scrofula	3
Erysipelas	1	Suffocation (by charcoal)	2
Fever	3	Teething	3
scarlet	15	Thrush	3
typhus	9	Tetanus	2
bilious	17	Unknown	8
intermittent	27	Worms	6
Fall	1	Adults	187
Gangrene	1	Children	193
Gout	1	Total	380
Inflam'n brain	6		

First Ward.—Some improvements made on the streets, an 674 running feet of paved footways laid, and considerable of the grounds of the President's House and enclosures of the Offices have been made.

Second Ward.—5,035 feet in length of footways has been laid. The line of iron pipes has been extended from 13th street, along F street, to near 15th street; and for the short period during which the Contractor for deepening and widening the Canal has been at work, great progress has been made.

Third Ward.—5,026 feet of pavement has been laid; but little improvement of a general nature has been made.

In the other Wards but little has been done, with the excep-

tion of the work done on the Canal, and buildings within the Navy Yard, Penitentiary, &c.

February 13, 1832.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
IN THE YEAR 1832, AND ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Running ft. brick pave- ment.
1	—	6	6	—	1	630
2	7	9	16	3	3	1,876
3	12	22	34	9	7	750
4	2	1	3	—	—	—
5	1	—	1	—	2	—
6	2	—	2	—	—	—
	24	38	62	12	13	3,256

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT.

Wards.	Real.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$ 15,375	\$15,750	\$ 31,125
2	85,725	15,600	101,325
3	123,675	22,160	145,835
4	520	3,600	4,120
5	1,000	1,000	2,000
6	2,150	2,150	4,300
	\$228,445	\$60,260	\$288,705

First Ward.—But little has been done within the year, out of the funds of the Ward. The extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, from the basin in Rock creek to the mouth of the Tiber, is in considerable forwardness. On that part of the City canal, within the limits of 15th and 17th streets, very little has been done towards forming it into a deepened basin for the reception of boats through the former. Indeed, it would appear, instead of being a primary object of those to whom the management has been committed by the Council, to have had the least attention paid to it—instead of the first, it is now the last; and that portion of the city most interested in the work has been seriously injured for some time back, by the shutting out of small craft, and the loss of wharfage, as well as the injury to the lumber merchants.

Second Ward.—But little has been done on streets, &c.

The Canal, within the limits of this ward, is nearly completed; it exhibits a beautiful sheet of water, and, when the opening to the Potomac is made to correspond, will afford ample room and depth of water for vessels drawing from seven to eight feet of water. The bridges across at 14th and 12th streets are to be elevated about 15 feet above high water, so as to admit the smaller size steamboats as high as 7th street; these bridges, also, having draws in them, will enable market, wood, and lumber vessels to pass up as high as the market, without which the advantages of an extended width of the canal and additional depth, would be comparatively useless, and destructive to the interests of the central portion of the city, as well as the General Fund.

Third Ward.—Much less has been done than usual. Considerable progress is making in excavating and walling the canal.

In the three Eastern Wards but little other than contingent repairs has been done.

In the Navy Yard some improvement has been made, and a revenue cutter built.

A Fountain of Water has been obtained on the farm of J. A. Smith, and the water is already conveyed in iron pipes to the foot of the hill north of the Capitol, affording a copious supply—a free stone basin around the Naval Monument for its reception is already prepared.

The brick pavement for the West gate of the Capitol has been taken up, and Seneca stone flagging laid in its place. Other improvements are making around the Capitol.

The Botanic Gardens, on the West front, from the temporary manner of its enclosure, is not kept in a good state—a continuance of the iron railing from its east end around it, would give confidence to those who have embarked in the project by securing the safety of the plants and shrubbery, and adding beauty to the neighborhood.

Water has also been conveyed in iron pipes from Square 249 to the State and Treasury Departments.

The centre of Pennsylvania Avenue, from 3d to 14th street, has been graded, and nine inches of stone laid on it, which

presents already a smooth surface; and preparations are making to complete the whole, as provided for by Congress.

The Potomac Bridge has been put in order for travelling, with the exception of the West draw, which will soon be finished; furnishing a free access to the city from the South and West.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, in which the city is greatly interested, is now in such a state of forwardness as to reduce it almost to a certainty, that it will be open for navigation from the city to Harper's Ferry early in the Spring, and to many miles above Hancock, in September of this year. When this is accomplished, the charter will have been complied with; trade will actively commence; the heavy productions which will not bear land carriage, such as lime, iron, lumber, and, to a certain extent, coal, besides the opening of freestone, marble, and other quarries, which have been hitherto shut up from the want of a cheap conveyance to the markets of the District, and towns on the Chesapeake Bay, will be opened to the trade of the country round. In accomplishing this work, a heavy pressure has been felt by the stockholders, arising principally from the delay produced by legal impediments, which suspended the works of the company. Since their removal, the work has progressed with increased vigor; and but little doubt now remains on the minds of any friend to the work, as to the ability of the Company to complete, within the present year, at least 107 miles of navigation, and, in as short a time as the nature of the work will permit, to extend it to the coal banks.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 25, 1833.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THE CITY OF
WASHINGTON WITHIN THE YEAR 1833, AND ADDITIONAL
ASSESSMENT, &C., BY JOHN SESSFORD.*New Buildings.*

	Of brick.	Of wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.
First Ward	3	2	5	1
Sec'd	9	12	21	7
Third	18	20	38	4
Fourth	4	—	4	—
Fifth	—	4	4	—
Sixth	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 12

	Additions.	Total no. of Dwellings, Dec. 31, 1833.	No. of Inhabi- tants to each house.
First Ward	1	643	6
Second	2	766	6
Third	8	1,107	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fourth	1	330	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fifth	—	241	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sixth	—	428	5
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 3,515	

Population.	Additional Assessment in 1833.		Total Amt. of Assess., Dec. 31, 1833.
	Improvements.	Personal.	
3,881	\$ 6,100	\$ 8,560	\$1,709,437
4,598	38,200	20,150	1,783,633
6,559	25,150	16,650	2,837,681
1,914	—	—	601,923
1,410	—	300	550,821
2,146	800	500	469,385
20,508	<hr/> \$70,250	<hr/> \$46,160	<hr/> \$7,952,880

First Ward.—The improvements in this ward by the Corporation, during the year, are unimportant. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal has been completed from the Georgetown Basin to 17th street west, and the water let in; it locks down into the Basin at the mouth of the Tiber. Over this branch of the Canal there are two wooden and one stone bridge; the latter is a handsome and substantial structure, built on a plan of Mr. Rhodier's, and executed under his direction. Some

kilns have been built on a large and permanent scale, for the making of Lime, from stone brought down the Canal.

Second Ward.—In this, very little has been done out of its own funds, and very little attention paid to the preservation of what had been previously executed; the gutter drainage, in many instances, neglected, by which the water was turned from its proper course, to the injury of the streets; and the rubbish from buildings, kitchens, &c., permitted to remain, contrary to the law.

Third Ward.—The same as the second, with the additional neglect to repair the broken footways. The western part of the Centre Market has been brought into use by the rental of the stalls, and improving around it; it is well attended and supplied with almost every necessity in abundance; vieing with almost any market, in any of the large cities, in quality and cheapness of the articles.

Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Wards.—Scarcely anything has been done by these wards.

The improvements has been considerable. The Canal through the city has not been prosecuted with either spirit or judgment, and the expense of execution has been greatly increased by the injudicious commencement of middle sections, preventing a proper drainage, and adding 25 cents cost on every perch of stone hauled, which might have been easily avoided, by keeping the navigation free. The formation of an island was never, originally, contemplated. Had there been a superabundance of excavation to be removed, without proper place to deposit it, there might have been some excuse for such a scheme; but such is not the fact, as is shown by the work itself; for the streets bordering the basin would have absorbed the whole of it; and, if not, the adjoining squares would, for which the Corporation might have got paid. To make up the deficiency caused by the island, resort is had to the high bluff north of the basin, to fill up B street several feet deep, two-thirds of its length, and the same will have to be done on the south side, a distance of 2,000 feet in length, with a sufficient width. The bridge at 12th street, (being two inclined planes, with a very steep ascent,) is almost impassable

with a full load, and the bridge itself appears as if on stilts, instead of resting on stone piers.

The improvements made by the United States have been considerable. Those around the President's Mansion, as far as done, are of a permanent nature; the entrances and lawn on the north front being greatly enlarged by the removal of the gates farther east and west, connected by an iron railing, and the outer circle of the road, and cast iron fancy railing around the lawn. This improvement would have been better if the gates had been placed opposite the streets on the east and west side of the enclosed ground north, with proper lodges at each. The walks on the south front, and the mounds, are also completed. The water from the spring, on square 248, has been conveyed in iron pipes to the reservoirs, intended to supply the Executive buildings and President's House. Had the work been properly managed, the object intended could have been accomplished at a less expense; there being a sufficient head and supply, reservoirs of sufficient capacity might have been built, for a supply in case of fire; a portion also to form a jet south of the President's House, and the balance to discharge itself from a fountain or fountains, at the lowest point, at 15th street, and then the balance for the supply of the neighborhood.

The improvement on Pennsylvania Avenue has been completed in its curbing and carriage way, from the Navy Office to the North and South entrances to the Capitol; the curbing is very fine and the carriage way handsome, and probably as substantial as the nature of the stone (Gneiss,) would admit of. Some of the side drainages are too flat to pass off the water sufficiently quick, and require correction. It is to be regretted that the levelling of it had not been intrusted to the City Surveyor, whose duty it is to give the graduations as recorded,—it would, no doubt, have been done equally well, and at a very trifling expense, he being always on the spot.

At, and around the Capitol, considerable improvements have been made; the terrace around the west front has been paved with Seneca flags. The Chamber of the House of Representatives has had its floor raised, and the circle for the seats

reversed, facing the Speaker's Chair, which is now on the North side—the attic windows behind the South columns opened, and a neat gallery erected for the accommodation of the ladies; besides other material alterations. A copious supply of water has been obtained from a spring in the farm of J. A. Smith, which empties into two reservoirs, East and West of the Capitol, and is sufficient for the purposes intended. The Navy Yard has been very much improved in general appearance, the wharf enlarged, and the slip repaired.

Application has been made for an extension of the improvement of the Pennsylvania Avenue, by grading, curbing, and Macadamizing—it is confidently believed that a cheaper and more durable covering could be made of gravel, properly selected and screened, which would be freer from dust in dry, or mud in wet weather, than from the stone now used.

The opening of the City channel from the Potomac to the Windmill Point, by dredging it, would afford many facilities to the improvements on the whole of the line, to the City and Chesapeake Canal, as well as to Georgetown, and prevent the necessity of the expenditures on the Western channel, and only requiring one draw at the bridge.

Congress have, from time to time, taken up the subject of revising and forming a Code of Laws for the District, and two codes have been reported; the first by Judge Cranch, which was never acted on, and a second by a committee of their own body sitting for that purpose during the recess, and now printed by order. The difficulty of acting on it is felt by all. As a means of avoiding it, I would suggest, as the proper course, that Congress pass an act directing an election of Delegates, say one for every fifteen hundred inhabitants, who shall meet in Convention for the purpose of forming a Code of Laws for the District, and submit the same to Congress for approval. The cost of such a Convention would be but trifling. This hint is thrown out for consideration. To this body the reported Codes might be referred.

February 7, 1834.

THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Gentlemen: Enclosed is a statement of the improvements in the City within the year 1834, together with the assessments.

JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Total houses in City.	Shops and additions.
1	—	7	7	2	1	650	71
2	3	10	13	3	4	779	99
3	10	24	34	5	1	1,151	152
4	—	3	3	1	1	333	12
5	—	4	4	—	—	245	9
6	1	1	2	—	—	430	25
	<u>14</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3,588</u>	<u>368</u>

Wards.	Public Bldgs.	Supposed Popl'n.	Running ft. brick pavement.
1	12	3,923	29,365
2	13	4,576	37,376
3	23	6,791	34,571
4	8	1,930	9,234
5	6	1,434	755
6	9	2,156	275
	<u>71</u>	<u>20,910</u>	<u>111,576</u>

GENERAL ASSESSMENTS OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Wards.	1823.	1824.			
	Total.	Lots.	Buildings.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$1,533,188	\$556,096	\$502,089	\$129,875	\$1,188,069
2	1,407,582	469,219	525,615	88,635	1,083,469
3	1,635,590	606,536	602,600	93,465	1,502,601
4	1,026,620	255,134	206,305	42,405	503,944
5	808,856	286,791	149,120	18,250	454,161
6	611,082	202,834	212,338	32,195	461,785
	<u>\$7,022,918</u>	<u>\$2,376,610</u>	<u>\$2,198,067</u>	<u>\$404,925</u>	<u>\$4,979,602</u>

1829.				
Wards.	Lots.	Buildings.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$ 760,494	\$626,783	\$133,600	\$1,520,877
2	752,538	671,605	131,600	1,555,743
3	1,132,336	999,475	183,370	2,315,181
4	290,603	250,200	43,150	583,953
5	334,986	169,810	24,175	528,971
6	217,075	208,585	36,125	461,785
	<u>\$3,488,032</u>	<u>\$2,926,458</u>	<u>\$552,020</u>	<u>\$6,966,510</u>

1834.		
Wards.	Buildings.	Personal.
1	\$ 641,955	\$110,150
2	895,200	101,900
3	1,494,040	196,450
4	198,060	26,750
5	130,675	12,900
6	145,541	21,875
	<hr/> \$3,505,471	<hr/> \$470,025

During the last year, owing to the depressed state of the Finances, but little has been done by the Corporation. In the First Ward but one street has been improved. In the Second Ward, the only improvement is the paved footway on the east side of 12th street, from the Canal to Maryland Avenue, and partially on the north side of Maryland Avenue, from 12th to 14th streets. In the Third Ward, Sixth street has been improved between G' and H, and the footway laid on the east side, and a paved footway on the west side of 7th street, from the Canal to Maryland Avenue. In the Fourth and Fifth Wards, New Jersey Avenue has been graded and gravelled.

The Canal through the city has been prosecuted throughout the year, and now requires but little more work to make it navigable throughout. The bars at the east and west end, and at 14th street, have proved very injurious to the interests of the City, and ought to be forthwith removed, to admit vessels of a draught equal to the capacity of the Canal.

The improvements around the President's House are of a permanent nature, and add much to its appearance. The wall, on the South front, is unsightly, and should be reduced in height, with an iron railing, which would have a more airy appearance, and be a better protection to the grounds than the present.

In, and around, the Capitol, some handsome improvements have been made. The Fountain is neat and ornamental, but too confined. The Naval Monument loses its effect from being so near the Capitol. Were it removed to the island in the Botanic Garden, properly elevated, with a sufficient sheet of

water around it, it would be seen to more advantage. The surplus water from the fountain might be also taken there, and jets formed, after which, it might be conveyed in pipes to water the low grounds of the City to great advantage to the public.

The improvements in the Navy Yard have been considerable, in the enlargement of the wharf and erection of buildings; and the Yard itself is tastefully arranged and kept in neat order, reflecting credit on the officer having charge of it. It is, however, much to be regretted, that this Yard has not been further encouraged by ordering, from time to time, some of the public vessels to this place, which is a good and safe harbor; where, from experience, they can be repaired as economically as elsewhere, besides encouraging the growth of this City, which is the Seat of the General Government.

The Arsenal, and the grounds around it, have been much improved, and have a fine view, being on the point of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. The marsh, on the east side of it and the Penitentiary, ought to be drained, by the cutting a small canal as far north as South N street, which would give additional ground, and remove much of the cause of sickness in the neighborhood.

The Eastern Grave-yard has been much ornamented, and is well enclosed. The numerous handsome monuments and vaults already make this place worthy to be visited by strangers.

Considerable progress has been already made in the erection of a new bridge across the Potomac; the eastern cause-way being now dry-walled on each side, and to a height ready to commence the mortared work, and considerable of the filling done. The two causeways ought to be united by causewaying across the middle channel, which is of no use. The opening and deepening of the channel of the river along the shore of the City to Georgetown, would be of great advantage to both places, and would supersede the continual necessity of dredging the western channel, and well deserves the serious consideration of Congress.

February 13, 1835.

Annual statement of improvements made in the City of Washington within the year 1835, and additional Assessment of Houses and Personal Property; the tax on which is for city purposes 50 cents, and for Chesapeake and Ohio canal 60 cents on the \$100.

JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Total dwellings.
1	3	7	11	—	659
2	3	4	7	5	786
3	9	14	23	4	1,165
4	—	1	1	1	334
5	—	—	—	—	245
6	—	—	—	—	441
	15	27	42	10	3,630

Wards.	Total public bldgs.	Total shops separate from houses.	Total bldgs.	Supposed census.
1	13	67	739	3,954
2	11	96	893	4,616
3	22	140	1,327	6,874
4	7	11	352	1,937
5	5	7	257	1,421
6	8	24	473	2,205
	66	345	4,041	21,007

Wards.	Running feet of pavements.	
	In 1835.	Total.
1	—	27,365
2	1,257	38,633
3	4,624	39,195
4	—	9,324
5	—	755
6	—	275
	5,881	115,547

There have been during the year scarcely any improvements other than contingent, owing to the embarrassed situation of the City and Ward finances. Had the city been in possession of the funds derived from the sales of the public lots, and the unsold lots contributed their proportion of taxes, equally with those owned by individuals, the city would not at the present day have been in need of funds to free it from its

debts and obligations; but the proceeds were paid into the Treasury of the United States, instead of being placed to the credit of the city for its improvement and embellishment, and which was contemplated by its great founder, Washington, and President Jefferson, as is fully shown by their acts and correspondence. The amount raised for city uses by sales of lots and donations from Maryland and Virginia, was, up to 1830, as follows: From lots \$732,717.68; donations from Maryland \$72,000; from Virginia \$120,000; making the sum of \$924,717.68; nearly all of which was obtained in the infancy of the city. Had this amount been invested in stock, it would have afforded a yearly revenue of upwards of \$55,000, to which might have been added a small assessment tax, and licenses would have enabled the corporate authorities to accomplish every desirable improvement, and of a permanent nature. In addition, much good might have been done by the Government, had they fostered the city as the nation's city, by the building and fitting out a portion of the public vessels from the navy yard. Ordering a portion of them here as they return from cruises, would be but an act of justice, and would aid much the interest of the city. The approach to the yard by the Potomac river is good, the harbor commodious and safe in all seasons, with a sufficient depth of water to admit any vessel that can pass up to Alexandria. The expenses of building are as low as at any other navy yard, as was shown in the report of the late Secretary of the Navy; then why not order ships here?

During the past year the Potomac bridge has been rebuilt out of an appropriation made by Congress, and is nearly a mile in length; about one-third of its length is a causeway across the flats; it has a footway on each side and two draws, 66 feet wide each, on the railway plan; one at the eastern or city channel, and the other at the western or Georgetown channel. The Georgetown channel has been much improved by dredging, during the last year. Were a similar appropriation made by Congress for the city channel, a greater depth of water might be obtained, besides having the advantage of passing along the city shore and wharves from the mouth of

the Anacostia to Georgetown, and ultimately superseding the necessity of two draws in the bridge. During the year a new Theatre of large dimensions has been erected, and handsomely fitted up, fronting on the open space on E street and Pennsylvania Avenue, between 13th and 14th streets west, and the old Theatre greatly improved. The railroad has been completed to Baltimore; its depot on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 2nd street west. A commencement has been made in filling up the unsightly and unhealthy pond on the President's square, adjoining the canal; and it is in contemplation to grade the whole of the square. A great improvement would be made to the south side of the President's enclosure, were the unsightly stone wall reduced in height, and an iron railing placed on it to correspond with the north front. There ought to be erected a permanent Navy Hospital on the ground intended for that purpose at the east end of the city, where it is much needed. Such establishments exist elsewhere, and others are petitioned for; there is ample room for buildings, gardens, &c.; it would supersede the necessity of renting, as at present, inconvenient places. A topographical survey of the District is much wanted, and might be executed in a short time, and at a trifling expense, by a detachment of the Engineer corps. Such a survey would be found useful to the committees on District affairs, as well as the public. A survey is now making by the State of Maryland on an extensive scale, and that of Virginia has been done some years ago.

January 16, 1836.

Annual statement of improvements made within the city within the year 1837; together with the additional assessment; together with the total on personal property, buildings and aggregate; also, the supposed population. JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Total no. of dwlg.
1	3	7	10	3	679
2	1	13	14	9	811
3	11	22	33	5	1,212
4	1	4	5	—	342
5	—	1	1	—	249
6	—	—	—	1	441
	16	47	63	18	3,734

Wards.	Supposed census.	Running ft. pavement laid in yr.	Additional assessment for 1887.		
			Bldgs.	Personal.	Total.
1	4,300	328	\$ 9,850	\$14,775	\$24,625
2	5,136	540	11,510	10,350	21,500
3	7,676	350	35,000	27,300	62,300
4	2,042	—	3,300	6,300	9,600
5	1,431	—	1,100	1,900	3,000
6	2,205	—	200	5,150	5,350
	22,790	1,218	\$60,600	\$65,775	\$126,375

Wards.	Personal.	Assessment on Bldgs.	Lots.	Aggregate.	Tax at 25 cents on \$100.
1	\$145,375	\$ 671,340	\$ 601,490	\$1,418,205	\$11,684.54½
2	136,450	964,450	607,322	1,708,222	12,811.66½
3	264,850	1,622,340	1,397,071	3,284,261	24,631.95½
4	40,550	203,860	177,214	421,624	3,162.18
5	18,200	133,975	175,679	327,854	2,458.90½
6	30,925	145,891	154,596	331,412	2,485.59
	\$636,350	\$3,741,856	\$3,113,372	\$7,491,578	\$56,186.83½

During the year, but little has been done by the Corporation, beyond the casual repair of streets, except the filling up of lots, by direction of the Board of Health, which were covered with water, and considered injurious to the health of the inhabitants. The general healthiness of the city is fully admitted by all who have an opportunity of judging correctly; the markets well supplied, and at prices lower on the average, than those of any city to the east of this place. The bridge at Twelfth street has been reduced in height, affording a much easier passage over it. Some dredging has been done in the Canal, opposite sewers; the necessity for this might easily be obviated by the construction of sediment basins where wanted; the west entrance of the Canal is still much obstructed by the remains of the Dam, which ought to be removed, so as to admit small steamboats and river craft to enter without difficulty, and pass up to the heart of the business part of the city, the depth of water inside, at ordinary high tides, being over seven feet—a depth equal to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, through which pass coal and lumber vessels. Should this work be commenced early in the spring, beneficial effects would soon be felt. Great progress has been made in the construction of the new Treasury building and Patent

Office. The extension of the west enclosure of the Capitol adds much to its general appearance; the embellishments of the grounds within it are neat and well-arranged, and the promenade through it delightful, enlivened by a handsome jet and basin. Iron pipes have been laid from the Capitol, along the north side of Pennsylvania avenue, to Fifteenth street, with a sufficient number of plugs for the supply of water in case of fire. At the Arsenal considerable improvements have been made by building, as well as partially filling up the swamp on the east side of the ground south of the Penitentiary. Some additional buildings have been erected at the Navy Yard. This yard, from its neatness, forms a considerable attraction to the stranger, but wants to be enlivened by the presence of public vessels. Why this is not the case, it is difficult to conjecture, particularly when it is known that vessels constructed at this yard have cost less, and endured longer without the necessity of repair, than those built elsewhere. The eastern portion of the city would be much benefited by the ordering of a portion of the smaller class of vessels of war to this navy yard for discharge and refitting.

January 15, 1838.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THIS CITY IN 1838,
&c.; BY JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Whole no. of dwellings.
1	2	3	5	4	684
2	4	13	17	7	828
3	28	20	48	7	1,260
4	2	6	8	1	350
5	—	3	3	1	252
6	4	—	4	1	445
	40	45	85	21	3,819

Wards.	Supposed census.	Running feet of pavement laid in year.	Bldg.	Additional assessment. Personal.	Total.
1	4,332	—	\$17,900	\$13,450	\$31,350
2	5,224	398	43,850	16,050	59,700
3	7,980	1,436	28,400	33,750	62,150
4	2,100	—	4,750	3,000	7,750
5	1,487	—	650	3,700	4,350
6	2,534	—	400	3,750	34,675
	23,677	1,744	\$95,750	\$73,700	\$169,450

Wards.	Personal.	Total assessment. Bldgs.	Lots.	Aggregate.	Tax at 75 cents on \$100.
1	\$158,825	\$ 689,240	\$ 601,490	\$1,449,555	\$10,871.66½
2	152,500	1,008,110	607,322	1,767,922	13,259.41½
3	298,600	1,650,740	1,397,071	3,346,411	25,098.08½
4	53,550	208,600	177,214	429,374	3,220.30½
5	21,900	134,825	175,879	332,204	2,491.53
6	34,675	144,291	154,596	333,562	2,501.72½
	<u>\$710,050</u>	<u>\$3,835,606</u>	<u>\$3,113,372</u>	<u>\$7,659,028</u>	<u>\$57,442.72</u>

During the past year but little has been done in the way of improvements by the Corporation, other than casual repairs. The general healthiness of the city has been fully sustained, as will be seen by those who have noticed the reports of the Board of Health, published monthly. The difficulty encountered by vessels entering the canal at the mouth of the Tiber, as well as that opposite the sewer west of 7th street has been in a great measure removed by the operations of the dredging machine; and vessels have entered heavily laden with a variety of produce and building material, by which the revenue of the canal from wharfage has doubled at least. A new and permanent bridge with a draw is much wanted at 14th street, and a draw in the one at 12th street, so as to admit vessels to pass up to the Centre Market; the wharves and property adjoining would become much more valuable.

During the year property has increased materially in value, and many good sales have been made. Rents generally have advanced, whilst the mechanic and laborer have been fully employed. The new Treasury and Patent Office erecting by the United States are progressing fast to completion; a portion of the former is now occupied by the Secretary of the Treasury. The grounds west of the Capitol, under the direction of the Commissioner and superintendence of the Public Gardener, have been improved tastefully, and produce a fine effect. Connected with this should be enclosed the grounds west of 1st street to 3rd street, for a botanic garden. Several good sheds for timber have been erected in the Navy Yard; and it must be again urged to those having authority, that it would be only an act of justice that a portion of the public vessels should be occasionally ordered to it to be refitted, &c.

Such a measure would restore confidence to the owners of property in the eastern portion of the city. More particularly is this urged, as it is known that the vessels built at this yard have cost less, and run longer without requiring repairs, than any vessels in the Navy. It would also be desirable that Congress should by law cause a topographical and geological survey of the District to be made, so as to keep pace with the adjoining States. The expense would be trifling compared to the advantages to the committees of Congress and the citizens.

January 4, 1839.

STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THIS CITY IN THE YEAR 1839,
AND ASSESSMENT BUILDINGS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.
BY JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Dw'l'gs. in 1839.	Shops, &c.	Running ft. of pavement.
1	20	6	26	7	615
2	7	28	35	2	1,967
3	24	39	63	2	2,500
4	2	11	13	—	—
5	1	1	2	—	—
6	—	2	2	1	—
	40	101	141	12	5,082

Wards.	Total dwelgs. in city.	Supposed pop'l'n.	Total ft. pavement in city.	General Assessm't. Bldgs.	Personal.
1	710	4,497	28,047	\$ 821,025	\$252,225
2	863	5,466	41,918	1,062,200	230,900
3	1,323	8,379	45,298	1,778,125	347,750
4	363	2,178	9,324	288,150	56,300
5	254	1,499	755	175,420	22,850
6	447	2,546	275	21,150	38,050
	3,960	24,565	125,617	\$4,346,070	\$948,075

The principal improvements have been in making brick footways, which have been charged to the property adjoining, and the guttering at the cost of the respective wards. In the first ward, Pennsylvania Avenue has had a new covering of gravel west of the War Office. In the second and third wards, New York Avenue has had a partial grading and gravelling, from 9th to 12th street, and 10th street from New York Avenue to I street. Some other footways have been com-

menced, and will be finished in the spring. The extent of paved footways is about 24 miles, and averages about 14 feet wide. The convenience arising to the community from these footways is perhaps not equalled in any city of the same population, and extending over so large a space of ground. A handsome new Engine House has been erected near the Navy Yard, and in the Navy Yard some good improvements have been made, and also at the Capitol and Arsenal. An additional supply of water has been obtained for the fountains in the Capitol enclosure, and pipes have been laid conveying water from those at 15th street west into each story of the new Treasury building, which has been for some time occupied by the various offices of the Treasury, which, since the burning, have been kept in rented buildings. The new Treasury building is a massive structure, the rooms in which are all fire-proof, neat and convenient. The Patent Office is sufficiently advanced to receive the models of patents as soon as the weather will admit. The new Post Office, on the old site, has its basement completed, and some height of the walls of the first story carried up. Its south, east, and west fronts are veneered with white marble, and the rear with gray granite. It will be a chaste and beautiful structure. The workmanship of these buildings is very substantial, and on all hydraulic cement has been freely used. A new jail, of the Gothic order, has been erected on the northeast corner of reservation No. 9, and will be ready for the reception of prisoners early in the summer.

The necessity for a complete topographical and geological survey of the District is much felt, and is necessary for the Committees of the District in Congress. It might at this time be accomplished by engineers in the service of the United States, who could now be easily detailed for the purpose. It would be a good accompaniment to that now in progress by the State of Maryland. In connexion with this, the documents relative to the seat of Government of the United States, ordered by the Senate to be compiled for publication, are much wanted for legislation, and, as documentary history, for reference.

It is intended shortly to furnish you with a sketch of the city calculated for gazetteers and general information.

DEATHS IN EIGHTEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE.

Apoplexy	6	Inflammation of the Brain ...	2
Asthma	2	“ Bowels ..	1
Burn	3	“ Lungs ...	4
Consumption	69	Lockjaw	1
Convulsions	4	Mania	1
Child-bed	2	Measles	1
Croup	14	Pneumonia	1
Casualty	5	Pleurisy	20
Colic	2	Palsy	2
Cancer	2	Rheumatism	1
Decay	15	Syphilis	1
Dropsy	11	Spasms	1
Dysentery	4	Summer Complaint	22
Drowned	5	Still born	18
Drunkenness	21	Teething	3
Fever, Typhus	11	Thrush	4
“ Bilious	11	Unknown	41
“ Scarlet	19	Water on the Brain	8
“ Congestive	1	White Swellings	1
“ Catarrhal	1	Worms	1
Fits	7	Under 2 years	139
Gout	1	From 2 to 10	39
Gravel	1	“ 10 to 30	59
Heart, Disease of	1	“ 30 to 50	78
Hernia	2	“ 50 to 80	54
Hæmorrhage	1	Over 80	3
Hooping Cough	3	Total	372

January 1, 1840.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THE CITY DURING THE
YEAR 1840, WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF 1839 AND 1840,
TOGETHER WITH THE NUMBER OF DEATHS.
BY JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Dwigs. in 1840.	Addition.	Shops &c.
1	7	23	30	—	—
2	8	23	31	10	3
3	34	57	91	4	9
4	1	7	8	—	1
5	4	8	12	—	—
6	2	4	6	—	—
	36	132	178	14	13

Wards.	Total dwlgs. in the city.	Running ft. of pave- ment laid in 1840.	Total running ft. pavement in city.
1	740	1,523	29,570
2	894	118	42,036
3	1,414	3,264	48,562
4	371	—	9,324
5	266	—	755
6	453	2,105	2,380
	<u>4,138</u>	<u>7,010</u>	<u>132,627</u>

ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

General in 1839.

Wards.	Lots.	Bldgs.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$ 732,929	\$ 791,625	\$237,075	\$1,761,629
2	989,154	1,042,700	224,200	2,256,054
3	1,735,959	1,736,875	339,700	3,812,534
4	207,422	280,550	54,200	542,172
5	171,482	167,970	22,050	361,502
6	111,996	215,000	37,450	364,446
	<u>\$3,948,942</u>	<u>\$4,234,720</u>	<u>\$914,675</u>	<u>\$9,098,337</u>

Additional in 1840.

Wards.	Tax at 75c.	Bldgs.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$13,212.22	\$18,595	\$ 9,150	\$27,745
2	16,920.41	34,380	15,200	49,580
3	28,594.01	76,050	20,600	96,650
4	4,066.29	16,550	2,200	18,750
5	2,711.27	3,100	800	3,900
6	2,733.35	1,800	5,650	7,450
	<u>\$68,237.55</u>	<u>\$150,475</u>	<u>\$53,600</u>	<u>\$204,075</u>

DEATHS IN 1840.

Apoplexy	8	Drowned	2
Burns	4	Drunkenness	20
Consumption	77	Dropsy in the Chest	11
Convulsions	2	Diarrhœa	2
Child-bed	6	Fever	1
Croup	8	“ Bilious	4
Casualty	2	“ Typhus	1
Cancer	2	“ Scarlet	41
Cholera Morbus	2	“ Inflammatory	1
Decay	13	Jaundice	1
Dysentery	7	Liver Complaint	2
Dropsy	18	Old Age	1

Pneumonia	6	Worms	2
Pleurisy	22	Under 2 years	176
Palsy	1	From 2 to 10	45
Summer Complaint	44	" 10 to 30	74
Still-born	32	" 30 to 50	82
Teething	9	" 50 to 80	45
Thrush	2	Over 80	5
Unknown	41		
Ulcer	1		427
Water on the Brain	20		

Very little improvement has been made in the opening and improvement of streets except in the First and Third Wards, other than the casual repairs and footways, from the want of means. A large and neat building has been erected on 9th street by the congregation of the Presbyterian Church, (Mr. Smith's,) and a new frame Church on 16th street for the Africans in that part of the city. The new Treasury and Patent Office buildings are now occupied, and the new Post Office is in progress. Improvements have been made in the Navy Yard and at the Arsenal. Great inconvenience is experienced from the partial destruction of the bridge across the Potomac, which it is hoped will be remedied by an appropriation for its repair.

January 22, 1841.

ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS ERECTED WITHIN THE YEAR 1841.
ASSESSMENTS, &c. BY JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Dwigs.	Shops.	Additions.	Total Dwigs.	Average to house per census 1830.
1	18	6	3	763	6.023
2	42	7	1	924	6.006
3	105	4	8	1,504	5.901
4	13	2	1	383	5.254
5	18	—	—	277	5.197
6	20	1	0	467	5.006
	216	20	13	4,318	

Wards.	Inhabitants in 1841, per ratio of 1830.	Running ft. pavement laid in 1840.	Additional Assessment 1841.		
			Bldgs.	Personal.	Total.
1	4,753	333	\$28,425	\$15,950	\$ 44,375
2	4,599	2,714	28,075	16,500	44,575
3	8,875	4,999	94,300	12,850	107,150
4	2,013	—	6,350	3,800	10,150
5	1,439	—	2,450	650	3,100
6	2,337	—	3,600	2,850	6,450
	25,016	8,046	\$163,200	\$52,600	\$215,800

TOTAL ASSESSED PROPERTY ON WHICH THERE IS A TAX OF 75c. TO \$100.

Wards.	
1	\$1,833,749
2	2,350,209
3	4,016,354
4	571,072
5	368,502
6	378,346
Total	\$9,518,232

In the First Ward, no improvements have been made other than repairs.

In the Second and Third Wards, important improvements have been made in opening, grading, and gravelling streets, building culverts, &c. &c. as well as casual repairs. In the other three Wards but little has been done.

Further work has been done on the new Treasury Building and the Patent and Post Office Buildings are both occupied. Additional buildings have been erected on the grounds attached to the Arsenal, and a new wharf made. The Yard is well situated, on the Anacostia, and has a sufficient depth of water for vessels drawing under twenty-four feet, where they can lie secure from storms. The water is found to have a preservative quality for timber imbedded in the dock. The work-shops and timber-sheds are large and convenient; and, according to a Report of a former Secretary of the Navy, vessels built at this Yard have not cost more than those built at other Yards, and, according to the repeated verbal testimony of the late Commodore, have run longer without requiring repairs than those built on the seaboard. The policy of

President Jefferson was to improve it, as was shown by the number of vessels ordered to it in his time, which promoted the growth of the city; and, if pursued by those who succeeded him, would ere this have made the seat of Government a place of commerce. Even now, if a portion of the smaller vessels were ordered here for repairs, &c., the incidental benefits to the city, District, and Potomac region of Virginia and Maryland would be soon felt. Supplies for building, provisions, fuel, &c. can be had in abundance, and on as good terms as from any other region.

Note.—In 1840 there was built a four-story, and this year three of four-stories, and two raised, making a new class.

DEATHS IN 1841.

Apoplexy	2	Inflammation of Brain	4
Abscess	1	“ Bowels	3
Burns	2	“ Liver	1
Cramp	1	Pneumonia	6
Consumption	55	Pleurisy	13
Child-bed	4	Paraly	7
Croup	5	Quinsy	1
Casualty	2	Rheumatism	2
Cancer	3	Shot	1
Decay, or Hepatitis	16	Summer complaint	49
Dysentery	4	Still born	8
Dropsy	13	Sudden	1
Drowned	5	Smallpox	2
Drunkenness	15	Teething	10
Dropsy in the Chest	1	Thrush	1
Erysipelas	1	Unknown	29
Fever—Bilious	12	Water on the Brain	10
“ Typhus	3	Worms	3
“ Intermittent	1	Under 2 years	111
Fits	7	From 2 to 10	34
Epilepsy	4	“ 10 to 30	52
Gravel	1	“ 30 to 50	70
Heart, Disease of	1	“ 50 to 80	49
Hemorrhage	1	Over 80	3
Hooping cough	8		319

January 24, 1842.

322 *Records of the Columbia Historical Society.*

ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS ERECTED IN THE CITY IN THE YEAR
1842—ASSESSMENTS, &c. BY JOHN SESSFORD.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Dwiga.	Shops.	Additions.	Total dwiga.
1	8	20	28	1	2	791
2	18	47	65	2	8	989
3	44	100	144	8	6	1,648
4	2	17	19	1	2	410
5	18	1	19	1	2	296
6	1	11	12	1	1	479
	82	213	295	14	21	4,613

Wards.	Ratio per census 1830.	Inhabitants per ratio of 1830.	Running ft. pavemen laid in 1842.
1	6.023	4,764	1,520
2	6.006	5,939	624
3	5.901	9,724	1,380
4	5.254	2,154	400
5	5.197	1,538	—
6	5.006	2,397	—
		26,516	3,924

Additional Assessment in 1842.

Wards.	Bldgs.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$32,700	\$18,250	\$50,950
2	28,350	9,706	38,050
3	69,055	19,200	88,255
4	6,925	800	7,725
5	10,450	2,950	13,400
6	11,250	3,300	14,550
	\$158,730	\$54,200	\$212,930

Wards.	Total assess'd property, on which there is a tax of 75c. to \$100.	Tax.
1	\$1,884,689	\$14,135.24½
2	2,388,259	17,911.94½
3	4,104,609	30,785.56½
4	578,797	4,340.97½
5	381,902	2,864.26½
6	392,896	2,946.72
	\$9,731,162	\$72,984.71½

In the First Ward, some improvements have been made in streets, &c., and a new and substantial bridge erected across Rock creek by the Corporation of Georgetown; but the ap-

proach to it from the city is bad, and should be remedied without delay. Within the Second and Third Wards, some important improvements have been made in opening, grading, and gravelling streets, making bridges and culverts, &c., and reservoirs for water; a substantial bridge at Second street, across Pennsylvania avenue, has been erected. In the Fifth Ward some good improvements have been made.

The colonnade of the Treasury building has been put up, and cast-iron railing in front between the columns; the area wall, with railing on it, around the General Post Office, has been completed, the area paved with white marble, the footway outside with large flags. Some temporary fixtures around the Patent Office. The Patent Office building is daily visited by citizens and strangers, to view the extensive collection of curiosities. Additional improvements have been made at the Navy Yard and Arsenal. The new Jail is occupied and the old one is now undergoing alterations for a Lunatic Asylum. The Potomac bridge is yet unfinished. There are nine Steamboats plying from the city. The lands around the city are in much demand from the increase of the markets.

DEATHS IN 1842.

Apoplexy	1	Scarlet	3
Asthma	1	Intermittent	1
Burn	1	Fits	17
Consumption	66	Gravel	1
Childbed	5	Heart, Diseases of	2
Croup	6	Hemorrhage	1
Casualty	4	Hooping cough	6
Cancer	4	Inflammation, Brain	1
Cough	1	Bowels	2
Decay	17	Lungs	1
Dysentery	2	Liver	1
Dropsy	10	Kidneys	1
Drowned	5	Jaundice	1
Drunkenness	14	Liver complaint	2
Debility	1	Measles	26
Fever, Bilious	25	Murder	1
Typhus	1	Old Age	2

Pleurisy	7	Water on Brain	8
Palsy	1	Worms	4
Quinsy	2	Under 2 years	113
Rheumatism	1	2 to 10	45
Skin, Diseases of	1	10 to 30	63
Summer Complaint	21	30 to 50	62
Stillborn	7	50 to 80	51
Suicide	1	Over 80	7
Teething	8		
Unknown	45		341

January 20, 1843.

THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,

January 1, 1844.

EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS ERECTED IN 1843, &c.

	Of Brick.	Of Wood.	Dwellings.	Shops.	Add.	Total.
1st Ward	16	46	62		1	853
2nd "	25	38	63	7	6	1,052
3rd "	40	97	137	11	12	1,785
4th "	3	21	24		4	434
5th "	1	13	14	1		310
6th "	3	22	25	1		504
	88	237	325	20	23	4,938

Running feet of pavement:—2nd Ward, 881 feet; 3rd Ward, 1,867 feet; 4th Ward, 280 feet; Total 3,028 feet.

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT IN 1843.

	Inhabitants, ratio in 1830.	Assessment on Buildings.	Personal.	Total.
1st Ward	5,118	\$ 23,425	\$1,800	\$ 25,225
2nd "	6,312	53,750	900	64,650
3rd "	10,710	172,025	3,150	175,175
4th "	2,278	12,950	5,300	18,250
5th "	1,850	6,700	2,225	8,925
6th "	2,520	5,800	700	6,500
Total	28,788	\$274,650	\$14,075	\$288,725

	Total am't of assessed property Dec. 31, 1842.	Personal names added in 1842.
1st Ward	\$1,909,924	5
2nd "	2,442,909	3
3rd "	4,279,784	16
4th "	597,047	36
5th "	390,827	18
6th "	399,396	6
Total	<u>\$10,019,887</u>	<u>84</u>

In the first ward some good improvements have been made in the streets, and within its limits has been erected a handsome and large building for an observatory, on an elevated site; the interior of St. John's church has been neatly and conveniently arranged in its seats, &c. In the Second Ward, in addition to the extensive improvements on its streets, &c., there has been erected a new Episcopal church on G street, between 13th and 14th streets; a new bridge is now erecting across the Tiber at 14th street, and, in opposition to the wishes and interests of the inhabitants of the centre of the city, without a draw, thus closing a public highway to the market, and lessening the income from the wharves to the general fund—a suicidal act, and which could not have been done had the Wards been fairly represented in the Council. Important improvements have been made in the Third Ward; the Market has been newly shingled; a large and neat Baptist church erected on E, between 6th and 7th streets; the old jail altered and neatly fitted for a Lunatic Hospital. In the other Wards considerable improvements have been made, at the Arsenal, Navy Yard, &c., and a new and extensive Asylum is erecting at the east extremity of the city. The Potomac bridge is finished. By the last column it will be seen that only 84 additional names have been added on the personal assessment return, of which only 24 were in the first three Wards, whilst there were erected in them last year 237 houses, and in the eastern Wards only 58 houses. The assessments are made every five years, and the yearly additions added, which make the above; from which should be deducted the losses from fire and from removal of housekeepers, of the amount of which

there is no data to form an estimate. A new assessment will be made in 1844, which will probably increase largely on the Second, Third, and a portion of the Fifth Wards.

JOHN SESSFORD.

Washington, January 3, 1844.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS ERECTED IN THE CITY IN THE YEAR 1844—ASSESSMENTS, &c.

Ward.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Additions.
1	18	57	75	5	5
2	25	48	73	6	13
3	35	105	140	5	4
4	8	22	30	1	1
5	5	27	32	1	
6		7	7		1
	<u>91</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>24</u>

Ward.	Estimated population.	Running feet of pavement laid.
1	5,568	1,217
2	6,750	3,063
3	11,367	4,045
4	2,412	964
5	1,774	3,819
6	2,555	1,072
	<u>30,426</u>	<u>15,080</u>

ASSESSMENT OF 1839 AND ADDITIONS ON BUILDINGS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY MADE IN 1840, 1841, 1842, AND 1843.

Wards.	Lots.	Buildings.	Personal.	Total.
1	\$ 732,929	\$ 894,770	\$282,225	\$1,909,924
2	989,154	1,186,655	266,500	2,442,309
3	1,735,959	2,148,305	395,500	4,279,764
4	207,422	323,325	66,300	597,407
5	171,482	189,670	28,625	389,777
6	111,916	237,450	49,950	399,396
	<u>\$3,948,942</u>	<u>\$4,980,175</u>	<u>\$1,089,100</u>	<u>\$10,018,217</u>

ASSESSMENT IN 1844.

Wards.	Buildings.	Personal.
1	\$ 890,250	\$241,400
2	1,164,950	292,150
3	2,803,675	484,900
4	423,975	87,750
5	209,083	41,550
6	296,825	61,750
	<hr/> \$5,588,758	<hr/> \$1,209,500

In the First Ward several streets have been graded and gravelled. The Observatory on reservation No. 4 is now finished, and the instruments for observations, &c. placed in it; the site is an elevated one, about ninety feet above tide, having ample space around it, and a commencement made in enclosing and grading the grounds. The view is unobstructed, having the Potomac to the west and south.

Second Ward.—A portion of Maryland avenue, New York avenue, 14th and 10th streets has been graded and gravelled; a line of iron pipe has been laid along F, from 12th to 11th streets, and down 11th to E street; a new line of pipe from the spring-head on 13th street to connect the iron pipes near G street, as also from F street down 14th to Pennsylvania avenue, is much wanted. The new Episcopal Church on G street is finished, and a neat Gothic building for a Lutheran congregation is now erecting on the corner of north H and 11th streets.

Third Ward.—Great improvements have been made in grading gravelling, and regulating streets, avenues, and alleys. Three places of worship are now erecting, and are in a great state of forwardness, viz. an Episcopalian on north H, between 9th and 10th streets; one for Methodists on Massachusetts avenue, between 9th and 10th streets; and another on the corner of south D and 10th streets west. New lines of iron pipe have been laid from the spring on C street to 6th, down 6th to Pennsylvania avenue, along Pennsylvania avenue to 7th, with two returns. The hotel (formerly Gadsby's) has undergone a thorough repair, and is kept by Mr. Coleman, late of New York; two four-story houses, with extensive back build-

ings have been fitted up for a hotel, occupied by Tyler and Birch, also on Pennsylvania avenue, between 3d and 4½ streets. There are also in progress large four-story additions to the buildings corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 3d street, west side, intended for a hotel, to be kept by Mr. Gadsby. The one-story buildings on the east side of 3d street, from Pennsylvania avenue to B, have been pulled down, and large and commodious buildings, with extensive vaults around, have been erected by Mr. Jones, also intended for a tavern. The old jail, which was neatly fitted up for a Lunatic hospital, has been given up for a Medical hospital and infirmary, now in operation, conducted by able professors, having a larger class of students than have ever been here; the Faculty act under the charter of the Columbian College, which is also increasing its students.

In the Fourth Ward but little has been done other than pavements.

Fifth Ward.—South S street has been causewayed across James's creek, and some improvements made at the Arsenal.

Sixth Ward.—The principal improvements have been the extension of pavements, the completion of the new Infirmary, and some improvements at the Navy Yard. In the Yard the St. Mary's has been built, launched, and sailed; an iron steamer now on the docks is nearly completed.

The grades of several of the streets bordering on the river, as laid down on the books are entirely too steep; now is the time to remedy it by extending the inclined plane so as to produce an easy draught, say not exceeding five inches rise in every ten feet.

The following is the number of dwellings which have been erected for the ten years from 1820 to 1829, inclusive; for the ten years from 1830 to 1839 inclusive; and for the five years from 1840 to 1844, inclusive, viz:

Buildings erected from the year—	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.
1820 to '29	533	500	1,033	121
2830 to '39	346	547	893	173
1840 to '44	357	1,011	1,368	98

Average.—Dwellings from 1820 to 1830	103
“ “ 1830 to 1840	89
“ “ 1840 to 1845	273

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1845.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE WITHIN THE
YEAR 1845, ETC.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Additions.	Dwlg. houses in city.
1	16	38	54	2	3	985
2	22	40	62	3	8	1,187
3	61	105	166	12	9	2,092
4	2	10	12	8	1	476
5	4	24	28	2	2	360
6	6	10	16	1	1	529
			338	28	24	5,638

Wards.	Population at 6 to each house.	Running ft. pave- ment laid in 1845.	Assessment of 1844. Improvements.	Personal.
1	5,910	1,084	\$ 890,250	\$653,311
2	7,122	1,317	1,164,950	292,150
3	12,552	8,372	2,603,675	484,900
4	2,856	—	423,975	87,750
5	2,160	1,315	289,083	41,550
6	3,174	1,483	296,825	61,750
	33,774	13,571	\$5,588,758	\$1,209,500

Wards.	Assessment of 1844. Lots.	Total.	Addition in 1845. Improvements.	Personal.
1	\$ 653,311	\$1,784,961	\$ 69,925	\$10,300
2	1,121,867	2,578,967	76,750	11,625
3	1,866,467	4,955,042	181,150	25,625
4	290,976	802,701	16,777	2,450
5	206,117	456,750	19,000	2,350
6	98,239	456,814	7,220	1,350
	\$4,236,975	\$11,035,235	\$370,822	\$853,700

First Ward.—Great improvements have been made in grad-
ing and gravelling various streets. Another lime kiln has been
built in addition to the three previously erected; the stone
for which is obtained through the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal,
and the lime is of a superior quality, furnished to builders at
one-half the price formerly charged when obtained from the

East, and giving employment to many hands. The Observatory is now well furnished with instruments for observations, with competent observers, the grounds enclosed, and in a state of preparation for laying them out in walks, &c., which will soon afford a delightful place for recreation, being on an eminence, and affording a splendid view of this city, Georgetown, Alexandria, and the District. Pennsylvania avenue, from the War Department on 17th street to Georgetown, has been regraded and gravelled, with paved side-gutters, out of an appropriation made by Congress.

Second Ward.—In this ward several good improvements have been made in opening streets and paving flag-ways across the carriage-ways. A line of iron pipes (in lieu of the old wooden pipes) has been laid on Pennsylvania avenue from 10th to 13th street, and crossing the avenue at three streets. Two other lines are authorized by law—for one of which, from north K to H street, down 11th street, the pipes are on hand, ready to be laid in the spring.

Third Ward.—From the extent and central position of this ward for business, greater and more important improvements have been made than any other in opening streets, sideways, &c. The market is abundantly supplied with meats and country produce, and excessively crowded with sellers and buyers. The buildings should, without delay, be enlarged by extending the wings to B street on such a plan as would be in unison with the improvements of market houses in other places—the additional stalls, &c. would more than meet the interest on the cost of the building. A new Presbyterian Church has been erected on 8th, between H and I streets, for the congregation of which Mr. Tuston is the pastor. The Odd Fellows Society have erected on 7th street, between D and E streets, a lofty and extensive hall, three stories high: the lower story is divided into two stores, ninety feet deep; the second story is for assemblies, &c., full depth, with side rooms detached; and the upper story for the use of the Society. Another very large hall has been erected by Messrs. Blair & Rives on Pennsylvania avenue, between 3d and 4½ streets, very lofty, with a granite front on the first story, and calculated

for two stores, one hundred feet deep each; the second story is one room, (Jackson Hall,) and a third story. In the rear there is an extensive building for a printing office. Gadsby's Hotel, corner of 3d and Pennsylvania avenue, erected by Mr. Withers, as well as the one opposite erected by Mr. Jones, add much to the appearance of the neighborhood.

In the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Wards, but little has been done in improving streets. The Infirmary at the extremity of the city is now occupied. A new Laboratory building has been erected in the Navy Yard, with two wings. Pennsylvania avenue, from east of the Capitol to the Navy Yard, &c., has been graded and gravelled through the Fourth and Sixth Wards by the United States.

Pennsylvania avenue, east of 15th to 6th street, has been completed by pebble-paving, curbing, and gravelling—dividing the carriage way (which is 100 feet wide from curb to curb) into three parts—two pebble paved, and the centre deeply bedded with gravel in layers, and covered with shore-gravel. Sewers have been rebuilt across the avenue at 6th street, and between 9th and 10th and 15th streets.

The Columbian College, beautifully situated on a commanding height adjoining the city, which heretofore has been much embarrassed, but now free from debt, is rapidly rising into importance and usefulness, having, at the commencement of its present session, nearly doubled its number of students in the College proper, and obtained a large accession of pupils to the Preparatory School. The medical branch is in a flourishing state, holding its meetings in the building formerly known as the old jail, and which has been neatly fitted up for a hospital.

Our neighbors of Georgetown have not been altogether idle; as confidence is now restored that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal will be completed, they have commenced improving. Two brick warehouses and seventeen dwellings have been erected within the year; the drain passing through the squares above. Bridge street has been arched and filled over to a great extent, the accomplishing of which affords an opportunity for those owning lots having a surplus of earth to find a place

for its deposit, and at the same time making room for buildings, many of which are contemplated to be put up in the spring. The extensive factory building is enclosed, and all its floors laid, and ready for machinery. This factory, when completed, will give employment to a large number of individuals, drawing wealth to the place, and affording a home market for the agriculturist, &c., which is at all times the best market for the country. Adjoining Georgetown, on the grounds of the Catholic College, has been erected a very neat and well-situated Observatory, on a beautiful eminence—a great acquisition to the institution by whom it has been erected, as well as of general utility.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1846.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY WITHIN THE
YEAR 1846, AND THE ASSESSMENTS, &c.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Total dwelling.
1	8	23	31	1	972
2	20	23	43	6	1,055
3	11	26	37	4	810
4	26	21	47	2	1,089
5	12	9	21	1	732
6	3	4	7		531
7	6	16	22	2	576
	86	122	208	16	5,765

The number of running feet of pavement laid in 1846 is as follows: 1st Ward, 564; 2d, 1,310; 3d, 2,160; 4th, 1,884; 7th, 396 feet; total, 6,314 feet.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF 1844, AND ADDITION OF 1845.

Wards.	Lots.	Improvements.	Personal.
1	\$ 653,311	\$ 960,175	\$251,700
2	1,036,917	1,027,117	272,275
3	730,280	622,650	123,700
4	1,249,155	1,503,060	319,500
5	428,870	649,393	135,450
6	157,131	291,863	60,150
7	451,314	389,500	78,300
	\$4,707,978	\$5,443,763	\$1,241,075

<i>Additions of 1846.</i>				
Ward.	Improvements.	Personal.	Total.	Tax at 75 cts. on \$100.
1	\$ 62,850	\$ 6,250	\$1,934,286	\$14,507.17
2	85,200	10,000	2,431,509	18,236.32
3	67,625	3,950	1,549,205	11,619.03
4	121,850	17,600	3,211,165	24,083.73
5	47,400	3,400	1,264,513	9,483.85
6	17,550	2,450	529,149	3,968.61
7	33,975	2,500	955,589	7,166.92
	<u>\$436,450</u>	<u>\$46,150</u>	<u>\$11,875,416</u>	<u>\$89,065.63</u>

First Ward.—Some improvements have been made in grading streets and laying flag crossings. A new Methodist Church has been erected on Twentieth street, between H street and Pennsylvania avenue.

Second Ward.—But little has been done in improving streets other than various convenient flag crossing, filling up lots on which nuisances existed, &c. A line of iron pipes has been laid from K street to H street, on the east side of Eleventh street, with four outlets; another line from the corner of E and Thirteen-and-a-half, down Thirteen-and-a-half to D, along D to Fourteenth, and down Fourteenth to Ohio avenue—both lines affording an abundant supply of pure spring water. A German Hall has been erected on Eleventh street, between F and G streets. A neat front has been erected to the F street Presbyterian Church.

Third Ward.—A neat and very convenient brick Market house has been erected and occupied (called the North Market) on K street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, with brick pavement on the south front, and across the space west of it two lines of flagways has been laid, with broad gutters adjoining. On the streets not much has been done. A large coach factory has been erected on the corner of Ninth street and Louisiana avenue. A large building for a Temperance Hall has also been erected on E street, between Ninth and Tenth streets.

Fourth Ward.—On the streets but little has been done, other than laying of pavements, flagways, &c. across the streets. On Fifth street, between G and H streets, has been erected a Ger-

man Catholic Church; Washington Hall, four stories, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street; a large four-story building on Second street and Pennsylvania avenue for a printing office. Improvements have been made on the Four-and-a-half street Presbyterian Church by a portico and steeple.

Fifth Ward.—Little has been done. A Methodist Protestant Church was erected in the Sixth Ward in 1845.

In the Seventh Ward, the new Methodist Church on south D and Tenth streets has been finished and occupied.

ASSESSMENTS.

Assessment of Lots, &c.				Lots	Buildings.	Personal.	Total.
Second Ward, east of 10th st.				\$ 9,675	\$ 8,200	\$ 100	\$ 9,975
Third	"	"	7th st.	65,694	24,575	1,650	91,919
Fourth	"	"	3rd st.	91,248	65,500	13,350	173,098

A new division of the wards, so as to run the lines north and south, is desirable, and would increase the means of the small wards.

Considerable improvements have been made in Georgetown in improving the streets, erection of new buildings, &c. A large iron rolling factory is nearly completed, adjoining the aqueduct. Another building is erecting south of the cotton factory, it is expected, will be put in operation in two or three weeks. It is also in contemplation to put up two more flour mills, which are much wanted, as the increase of the trade on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is now greatly and rapidly increasing, and there is now a fair prospect of its completion to Cumberland; which, when done, will cause a brisk trade on it, and no doubt in a few years equal any other canal in the country. The demand for the superior coal alone will give full employ for boats. Flour, grain, hay, wood, lime, &c. will be furnished in abundance for home consumption and exportation. The lands contiguous will increase in value, new villages, &c. spring up, and the facilities of transportation to the West be greatly promoted.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 4, 1847.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Dwigs. in city.
1	7	13	20	1	3	992
2	15	11	26	2	4	1,081
3	9	18	27	—	2	837
4	6	11	17	2	—	1,106
5	3	8	11	—	—	743
6	—	8	8	—	—	539
7	7	12	19	1	—	595
	<u>47</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5,893</u>

Wards.	Running ft. pave- ment laid in 1847.	Assessment of 1844, and additional of 1846-'47. Lots.	Improvements.	Personal.
1	1,915	\$ 653,311	\$1,023,025	\$257,950
2	1,299	1,036,917	1,112,317	262,275
3	—	730,280	690,275	127,650
4	—	1,249,155	1,624,910	337,100
5	718	428,870	696,793	138,850
6	—	157,131	309,418	62,200
7	3,840	451,314	423,475	80,800
	<u>7,772</u>	<u>\$4,706,987</u>	<u>\$5,880,213</u>	<u>\$1,287,225</u>

Wards.	Additional of 1847. Improvements.	Pers.	Total.	Grand total of city.	Tax at 75c. on \$100.
1	\$ 43,750	\$26,050	\$ 69,800	\$2,004,086	\$15,030.64
2	57,300	20,200	77,500	2,509,009	18,817.56
3	97,269	13,650	110,910	1,659,115	12,443.46
4	113,570	24,625	138,195	3,349,360	25,120.20
5	20,050	7,025	27,075	1,291,591	9,686.94
6	4,950	1,875	6,825	535,574	4,016.81
7	22,406	7,750	30,156	985,745	7,393.09
	<u>\$359,286</u>	<u>\$101,175</u>	<u>\$460,461</u>	<u>\$12,334,480</u>	<u>\$92,508.60</u>

In the First Ward some streets have been graded and gravelled, and flagging across certain streets laid. Considerable improvements have been made at the Observatory, and the management of that institution is such as does credit to those engaged in making observations. A large building is in the course of erection by Mr. Winder, at the intersection of 17th street west and north F, five stories high, fronting 209 feet on F and 101 feet on 17th, embracing 130 rooms; the basement faced with marble, and the fronts to be plastered. It is to be occupied by public offices. The building is to be

fire proof, the floors supported by heavy iron girders, and the rooms heated by furnaces.

Second Ward.—Twelfth street, south of Pennsylvania avenue, and Twelfth north of K to M, has been graded and gravelled. North H street has been improved between Eleventh and Thirteenth, by extending the sewer to the east side of Twelfth, and grading the street; several flag crossings have been laid, and other improvements made. A large building, five stories high, at the corner of F and 15th streets, having forty rooms, has been put up by Mr. Corcoran, intending to accomodate some of the offices attached to the Treasury. The old mansion formerly kept by Mr. Fuller has been greatly improved, and raised to four stories on Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street, containing more than 150 rooms, and is now occupied by the Messrs. Willard. At the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Twelfth street a large hotel, five stories high, with 72 rooms, has been erected by Mr. Fuller, and is now occupied by him as a hotel; it is a handsome structure, and a great improvement to that neighborhood.

In the remaining Wards not much has been done beyond the ordinary repairs. The centre portion of Pennsylvania avenue, from First street to the west side of Eighth street, has been pebble paved, being a great improvement over the gravelling and curbing, which has been removed. Around the terrace of the Capitol gas-lights have been put up, and on the dome a lantern raised ninety feet high, also lighted with gas. South of the Capitol a fire-proof building has been put up for the use of the Coast Survey corps. An iron bridge has been thrown across the canal on Maryland avenue.

On the Mall, in the Seventh Ward, on the ground set apart for the Smithsonian building, the east wing, commenced early in the summer, is nearly completed in its exterior and is much admired. The foundation for the west wing is also commenced. The stone is conveyed from the canal by a temporary railroad.

The contemplated establishment of a Cotton Factory, if carried into execution, would be of great benefit to the city.

New improvements of a valuable nature have been made in

Georgetown. The Cotton Factory is in full operation, making cloth of a superior quality. Two additional Flour Mills and a Bark Mill have been erected. The certainty of a speedy completion of the Canal to Cumberland affords a sufficient stimulus for its citizens to be prepared for the increased trade which must take place. The continual filling of the basin with sand by the emptying of Rock Creek would necessarily show the propriety of carrying the canal over the creek by an aqueduct on a level with the two lower locks, and locking down on the city side beyond the effects of the freshets, continuing a narrow canal to the tide-lock and along the city shore to the Tiber, as now.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 3, 1848.

ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS ERECTED IN THE CITY WITHIN THE
YEAR 1848, ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS, &c.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Rebuilt & additions.	Shops, &c.	Total dwelga. in city.
1	7	12	19	1	2	1,073
2	17	12	29	17	3	1,087
3	10	7	17	5	1	880
4	10	9	19	4	3	1,089
5	1	6	7	—	—	659
6	—	10	10	2	1	539
7	7	28	35	—	1	595
	52	84	136	29	11	5,922

Wards.	Estimated population.	Brick foot-laid 1848.	Additional assessment, 1848.		
			Improvements.	Personal.	Total.
1	6,438	—	\$ 42,275	\$ 6,550	\$ 48,825
2	6,533	1,864	110,950	30,250	141,200
3	5,280	514	58,075	6,350	64,425
4	6,534	3,538	79,300	14,300	93,600
5	3,954	1,211	16,850	4,050	20,900
6	3,234	—	12,650	250	12,900
7	3,570	—	22,650	1,950	24,600
	35,532		\$342,750	\$63,700	\$406,450

Wards.	Total of City property.
1	\$2,052,911
2	2,650,209
3	1,723,540
4	3,442,960
5	1,312,488
6	548,474
7	1,010,343
	<hr/> \$12,740,927

POPULATION OF THE CITY.

Years.	Whites.	Slaves.	Colored. Free.	Total.	Total.
1800	2,464	623	123	746	3,210
1803	3,412	717	223	940	4,352
1807	4,198	994	500	1,494	5,692
1810	6,292	1,436	892	2,328	8,620
1820	9,606	1,945	1,696	3,641	13,247
1830	13,379	2,319	3,139	5,458	18,835
1840	16,843	1,713	4,808	6,521	23,364

First Ward.—Several streets have been graded and gravelled; the most costly and extensive is that of K street, from 15th to 19th, the width of the carriage way being 107 feet. The grounds around the Observatory are in a course of improvement, by laying out walks and planting of trees. The ground on which this "lighthouse in the skies" stands is over 90 feet above high tide, having an open and extensive prospect in every direction; the ground embraces an extent of 19 acres 1 rood 3 perches, or 839,074 square feet. Immediately west is Mr. Easby's ship yard, at which have been built many fine vessels. The extensive building erected last year by Mr. Winder has been finished, and is now occupied by various public offices. The improvements around the President's House have been commenced by paving the carriage-way on the north front, and erecting a new iron railing of far too light materials, placed on a perishable wood coping. On the south front much has been done in grading and terracing the ground, preparatory to enclosing the whole extent from 15th to 17th street down to the canal. A neat building ought to be erected for the gardener, in place of the present unsightly wooden one, which is stuck down almost in a swamp.

Second Ward.—Considerable improvements have been made by the grading of streets and extending footways. Iron pipes have been substituted for the old wooden ones, from the Spring on 13th, above I, down 13th to near G street. Early in the spring the grading of K, from 10th to 12th, I from 14th to 13th, 13th and culvert from I to New York avenue, with others in their turn, will be commenced. It is hoped that provision will be made for extending the improvement of K westward, and opening 10th from K to N street north. The Hotel erected by the late Mr. Fuller, which was closed for a time, is now reopened by Mr. Thomas, under the name of the Irving House.

Third Ward.—Some improvements have been made in the grading and gravelling streets. The Gas Works are in course of erection.

Fourth Ward.—Some street improvements; several four-story buildings, as warehouses, having granite fronts on the first story, have taken the place of old ones; also, large additions to the Bank of Washington, in which is kept the Firemen's Insurance and Savings Institution offices.

Fifth Ward.—A new line of iron pipes has been laid in lieu of the wooden ones from the spring, corner of 3rd street and Indiana avenue, to 2nd street, and on B from 2nd to 3rd street. The opening of Indiana avenue, provided for by Congress, has been begun by building a culvert 11 feet in diameter, and grading over it from 3d to 2d street; the earth for filling taken from 2d, north of D street; the work will be resumed in the spring by extending the culvert to 1st street. It is contemplated to construct a culvert across Indiana avenue in a line with the Tiber, diagonally from south-west corner of square 631 to near the north-west corner of square 574; the height of the Railroad bridge is believed to be a little over the recorded grade, which is 12 feet 5 inches above tide. The ground around the old Botanic garden has been enclosed and other wise improved, by levelling and embarking the Tiber south of Pennsylvania avenue.

Sixth Ward.—Little has been done on streets, &c. In the Navy Yard an extensive foundry for casting cannon, shells,

&c. is in full operation. The purchase of the Bridges and making them free, is of great importance to the eastern section, as well as the city at large; they are now under the control of Congress. The dredging and deepening of the mouth of the Anacostia would be of great advantage, and could be effected at a small cost compared with the benefits to be derived.

Seventh Ward.—This ward is improving in buildings. The Foundry is doing a good business, turning out beautiful castings. The grading of $4\frac{1}{2}$ street south of Maryland avenue, to the Penitentiary, has been carried on with spirit, and, when completed in the spring, will be of great importance to that section; on the west side flag crossings have been laid and gutter drains.

The appropriation by the Council of \$20,000 for the deepening of the Canal and repairing the walls will be of great importance, and facilitate the entrance of vessels to receive the coal from Cumberland.

Great progress has been made in the erection of the Smithsonian Building, which will be a great ornament to the city.

The foundation of the Washington Monument has been carried up to within three feet of the bottom of the shaft, eighty feet square at base, and seventeen feet above the ground.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1849.

EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS ERECTED IN THE CITY IN THE YEAR 1849.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Additions.	Dwells. in city Dec. 31.	Estimated population.
1	4	21	25	—	2	1,090	6,540
2	22	14	36	3	3	1,126	6,756
3	22	18	40	2	4	923	5,538
4	13	12	25	1	—	1,114	6,684
5	7	6	13	—	2	655	3,930
6	—	12	12	2	1	666	3,996
7	6	27	33	1	5	748	4,488
	74	110	184	9	17	6,322	37,932

City Improvements, &c. During 1849.

First Ward.—Considerable improvements have been made in opening and grading streets. The abutments for a new

iron bridge over Rock creek have been erected. The several lime kilns have been in full operation during the year. The paving of the road north of the President's House and 15th street, in front of the Department of State and Treasury building, is completed. The grading south of the President's house has been continued, and the grounds enclosed. Many vessels of from 80 to 125 tons, bringing anthracite coal, &c., have unloaded at 17th street wharf, near the locks.

Second Ward.—Very considerable and important improvements have been made in opening and grading streets. 13th street from New York avenue to I street has been graded, and the culvert extended; 10th from K to N streets, Vermont avenue from I to M, and Ohio avenue from 12th to 15th partly opened; about 400 running feet of brick, and 1,100 stone flagways laid; also some paving of alleys. The Foundry Methodist church has been enlarged and beautifully improved in the interior; a large and handsome four-story brick Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum has been erected in lieu of the old one pulled down; a portion of the canal within the ward deepened and arch-drains and cesspools made; the abutments for an iron bridge at 12th street partly up.

Third Ward.—Various improvements in opening, grading, and gravelling streets, and paving alleys, and laying of brick and flag footways; the Patent Office Building extended on 7th street, of marble and solid brick work, and now elevated to the level of the principal floor.

Fourth Ward.—Several new streets opened, particularly New York avenue, from 7th to North Capitol street, and North H from Massachusetts avenue to the turnpike gate; the City Hall, which has stood so long in a rough state, is now nearly completed on its south front, according to its original design, and has a grand appearance; an extension of the two wings is much wanted for city and United States purposes.

Fifth Ward.—Some improvement on streets and footways has been made, and the public spaces enclosed.

Sixth Ward.—Footways have been laid on the east front of squares 845, 846, 847, and half of 877, about 1,500 running feet, and some minor improvements; much has been done in

the navy yard, a foundry, &c. The vessels built in this yard (according to the statement of the late Commodore Patterson) have cost less and run longer without requiring repairs, than those built at any other yard, which was verified by a report of the Navy Commissioners in February, 1841.

Seventh Ward.—Some improvements have been made; 4½ street has been gravelled from Maryland avenue to the penitentiary; the Smithsonian building carried up and covered in, and much of the interior nearly finished and fitted for use; the towers will be carried on in 1850, when the whole will make an imposing appearance; the Washington Monument has been carried up 35 feet of marble work above the base, making the whole height 52 feet above ground, and will doubtless progress rapidly in future, as the materials will be hoisted by the steam engine now put in operation.

N. B.—A notice of the assessments, &c., will form another article.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1850.

EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS &C. ERECTED WITHIN THE YEAR 1850.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Additional.	Shops.	Running ft. pave- ment laid.	Assessment of real & personal property.
1	8	17	25	4	2	1,809	\$2,024,777
2	44	23	67	9	15	1,172	2,488,259
3	16	23	39	2	3	611	2,100,609
4	40	18	58	2	—	1,117	3,651,805
5	2	8	10	2	1	—	1,169,339
6	—	5	5	1	—	1,751	515,878
7	7	82	89	5	8	308	930,619
	117	176	293	25	24	6,768	\$12,881,286

Running ft. of brick pavement laid in the city to December 31	225,217	Stocks tax
Running ft. stone flags, crossings, &c., —over—	20,000	\$801,453

Wards.	Tax on, at 75c. a \$100.	Transferred to general fund.	Applicable for ward purposes.
1	\$15,185.82	\$11,682.13	\$3,503.69
2	18,661.94	14,999.67	3,662.27
3	15,754.56	10,335.37	5,419.19
4	27,388.54	19,656.98	7,731.56
5	8,770.04	7,407.01	1,363.03
6	3,869.09	3,159.97	709.12
7	6,979.64	5,948.99	1,025.65
	<u>\$96,609.63</u>	<u>\$73,185.12</u>	<u>\$23,424.51</u>

CENSUS OF 1850.

Wards.	White.	Free col'd.	Slaves.	Total.	Houses visited.	Families.
1	3,487	1,757	237	5,481	940	992
2	5,017	1,540	354	6,911	—	—
3	4,870	850	282	6,002	982	982
4	6,969	1,287	556	8,812	1,216	1,267
5	2,741	1,142	259	4,142	716	769
6	3,402	151	168	3,721	645	661
7	3,513	1,236	254	5,003	759	862
	<u>29,999</u>	<u>7,963</u>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>40,072</u>		

Years.	White.	Free col'd.	Slaves.	Total.
1800	2,644	123	623	3,390
1810	6,292	892	1,436	8,620
1820	9,606	1,826	1,945	13,377
1830	13,379	3,135	2,319	18,833
1840	16,843	4,808	1,713	23,364
1850	29,999	7,963	2,110	40,072

FUNDED DEBT.

Funded debt July 1, 1849, at 5 per cent.	\$ 91,520
“ “ “ at 6 “	697,110
	<u>788,630</u>
Redeemed of 5 and 6 per cent.	12,160
	<u>\$776,470</u>

SINKING FUND.

Balance June 30, 1849	\$15,293.39
Drawn from the general fund	58,000.00
	<u>\$73,293.39</u>
Expended.—Redemption of funded debt	\$11,840.00
Interest on funded debt	45,311.12
Balance June 30, 1850	16,142.27
	<u>\$73,293.39</u>

SCHOOL FUND.

From interest on stocks	\$3,032.40
From general fund, deficiency July 2, 1849	2,199.32
School tax	3,220.00
Balance July 1, 1850	5,256.74
	<hr/>
	\$13,708.46
<i>Expended.</i> —Balance	\$2,199.32
Teachers, assistants, and secretary	8,722.48
Purchase of ground and repairs	325.00
Additional rents and contingencies	2,461.66
	<hr/>
	\$13,708.46
<i>Inspection.</i> —Flour, barrels	2,500
Salt fish, barrels	450
Soft coal, bushels	74,750
Hay, tons	1,010
Lumber, feet	3,714,230
Wood, cords	36,007
Revenue from markets	\$7,376.77

Great and important improvements have been made chargeable to the general fund. Iron bridges have been thrown over Rock creek, connecting the city with Georgetown, and also over the canal at Twelfth and Seventh streets, which are all neat and substantial, and which do credit to the skill of Mr. Rider of this city. Progress has been made on the canal, it having been deepened to the original depth from Fifteenth street west to Third street west, the walls renewed and repaired where necessary, and culverts and cesspools built at intervals to receive the sediment from the streets, and the contents stopped from filling the canal. A commencement has been made to deepen the canal from Third street to Virginia avenue, 3,800 feet. Considerable change has been made in the form and size of the basin east of Seventh street, the basin between Tenth and Twelfth street filled up, and the span of the bridges lessened by projecting the abutments. The wooden bridge still remains at Fourteenth street, where it will be absolutely necessary to have a draw to admit vessels of seven and a half feet draught to Twelfth street, and thus supersede the necessity of scowing lumber from the vessels to

the lumber yard. A great mistake has been made by excavating the centre section, instead of deepening from the mouth of the Tiber first, so as to make each section profitable as the work progressed. Had that been done, any vessel bringing coal through the Chesapeake and Ohio canal could unload from Seventeenth to Twelfth street. As it now is, no deep draught vessels can come up to the wharves. Attention should have been had to also improve the eastern terminus.

The City Hall is now finished on its south half, according to the original design, and shows a beautiful front, which is much admired. The extension of the east and west fronts, agreeably to the plan, would afford ample room for city uses; to the west and on the east, rooms could be made for the Criminal Court or other offices, separating the court end from the city offices; and I am informed that \$15,000 would be sufficient for the west wing, and the east wing, from the nature of the ground, would require somewhat more. The rotundo portion need not be touched for some time.

The attention of the Councils to the promotion of education has been great and commendable, and the provision made by them gives great satisfaction to the public. Better and more airy buildings are required as schools, for which efforts are now being made.

The appropriations made by Congress for enclosures, culverts, paving, &c., on Capitol square, and re-grading New Jersey avenue to south C street, and for levelling the grounds of the mall, &c., have been carried on with much spirit and judgement by the Commissioner, and on the opening of the season the work will be recommenced.

The streets east of the City Hall, connecting with the new railroad depot, have rapidly progressed, and a substantial brick arch has been thrown over the Tiber at Indiana avenue. The depot will probably be removed from the Pennsylvania avenue in a few months, its present terminus being a great annoyance to the neighborhood, and its removal will no doubt enhance the value of avenue property.

Considerable improvements have been made at the Arsenal for various purposes, and the manufacture of gun-carriages and many articles necessary for army purposes carried on.

A new foundry at the Navy Yard is now in full operation, where are made brass cannon, shells, shot, and machines necessary for the various shops in the yard and for the public vessels. Numerous shops for anchors, cables, tanks, &c. are also in full operation; indeed, almost every article required for the navy are manufactured of the best kind.

The Washington Monument is now up to eighty feet above the surface, thirty-eight feet of which have been put up in the year, at a cost of near \$900 a foot. From its position, it can now be seen at a considerable distance. There have already been placed in it a number of stones from States and societies, and others are on hand ready to be placed in the walls as the work progresses.

Within the year the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal has been opened from this to Cumberland, near the coal region, a large quantity of which has found a market in this District and Alexandria; and, from the demand for it for steamboats, &c., no doubt immense quantities will be brought down for shipment, as well as lime, cement, flour, with many other articles. Connected with this canal is the making of a slackwater navigation for Goose creek and Little river, as also the improvement of the Shenandoah. When these and other minor streams are opened, no doubt is entertained but the trade on the canal will be equal to the capacity of the lockage.

The general improvement of the city has been great. In the First Ward various streets and pavements have been made.

In the Second Ward some important streets have been opened at a great expense, and pavements laid. After considerable difficulty, an abundant supply of water has been obtained to furnish all the south portion of the ward, done by the substitution of a new hydrant, which prevents its waste, and an overflow on F street, near 15th, 12th, and 14th streets, south of the avenue. A new line of pipes has been laid from F down 14th to E street, and to the middle of square 226, on Pennsylvania avenue. The Foundry church has been enlarged and beautified.

In the Third Ward some good improvements have been made in opening and grading streets.

In the Fourth Ward, H street has been opened to the turnpike gate from Massachusetts avenue, making a new inlet into the city. Considerable other work has been done.

In the Fifth Ward a new line of pipes for conveying water has been laid from B street, down Second street, to Pennsylvania avenue, and on the north side of the avenue to First street. A large and handsome building is nearly finished for the congregation of Trinity church, at the corner of Third and C streets.

In the Sixth Ward footways and flagging have been made and two streets graded.

In the Seventh Ward much has been done in building, and the footways on Maryland avenue and Four-and-a-half and Seventh streets taken up and relaid at a lower grade, and Maryland avenue graded and gravelled from Seventh to Third street. A new brick church has been erected for a colored congregation.

Improvements in the country around have been made to a considerable extent.

In Georgetown the spirit of improvement has commenced, and within the year a splendid church for the Catholic congregation and a large and neat Methodist church have been erected, and also a large town hall, as well as a number of private buildings. The cotton factory, flour mills, bakery, &c. are in full operation. The facilities for manufacturing establishments, which are great, have been too much neglected. The opening of a street of not less than forty feet, on the south side of the canal, from the aqueduct to Rock creek, should engage the immediate attention of the town, by which improvement a line of business warehouses could be built to receive the produce brought down the canal.

Alexandria, although not now a part of the District, is rapidly improving, business reviving, and new buildings and wharves for the coal trade erected.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 14, 1851.

DEATHS IN 1849 AND 1850.

Months.	White.		Colored.	
	1849.	1850.	1849.	1850.
January	60	24	27	39
February	39	23	43	18
March	53	29	47	29
April	49	22	35	23
May	52	16	23	23
June	39	26	37	31
July	79	44	82	52
August	73	32	82	30
September	56	26	47	22
October	37	12	36	16
November	36	23	43	20
December	30	23	—	—
	603	300	502	303

EXHIBIT OF BUILDINGS, &c., ERECTED WITHIN THE YEAR 1851.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Additions.	Running ft. brick pavement.
1	17	38	55	3	6	3,010
2	33	27	60	11	10	4,492
3	29	21	78	4	12	3,170
4	26	70	96	2	9	2,139
5	11	19	30	2	4	1,657
6	6	29	35	2	2	565
7	20	79	99	4	1	2,626
	142	311	453	28	44	17,659

The improvements chargeable to the general fund have been of an important character. The excavation and walling of the Canal to the Anacostia branch of the Potomac is nearly completed, and the dredging of the western section, between Fifteenth and Seventeenth streets commenced. When this portion is done, vessels bringing coal through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal can pass up as far as the bridges will admit; also, lumber vessels of a draught of seven feet can pass up and unload on the line of wharves, superseding the necessity of scowling from the vessels at the mouth of the Tiber, as is now done. An iron bridge has been put over the canal, at 4½ street, the workmanship of which was done by Mr. Rider. The North Market-house has been extended to 8th street west, affording more room for the increasing busi-

ness doing in it. The crowding attendance at the Centre Market indicates strongly the necessity of extending the wings on 7th and 9th streets south to B street, and the building should be of a substantial and ornamental kind, and so constructed as to admit of its being extended all around, of a uniform plan; that portion for the sale of fish should be built on the line of B street, the present one removed, leaving the hollow square clear of all incumbrances, for the accommodation of the venders of marketing. Several other improvements have been made chargeable to the general fund. The expenditure for school education has been great, the number of schools increased, and the progress of the scholars in learning gives general satisfaction. Additional and better constructed buildings are much required for their accommodation.

The removal of the Railroad depot to its new site on C street and Jersey avenue (the buildings for which are commodious) has produced a great change in its immediate neighborhood, in the grading of streets and the building of an arch bridge across the Tiber at D street and Jersey avenue.

The most important improvement for the interest of the city is the commencement of the enlargement of the Capitol, the exterior foundation walls of which have been built in a most substantial manner. Each wing is 238 feet by 129, and 44 feet from the present building, to be united to it by colonnades carried up to the full height, making the whole front, from north to south, about 700 feet. The interior of the present building has been improved in many ways; the introduction of gas into the Rotundo, &c. has a fine effect when lighted up. Much has been done in grading streets and squares adjoining. Great progress has also been made in grading the Mall, and laying off the grounds by walks and planting of shrubbery. On Reservation No. 1, south of the President's House, a great amount of work has been done in grading, draining, and excavating for a pond; also north (Lafayette Square) the ground has been laid off into walks; square 349 has been filled and artificial mounds formed, preparatory to planting; 17th street, adjoining the War and

Navy offices, has been re-graded, paved, and the culvert extended from New York avenue to B street.

At the Navy Yard the most important improvement has been the erection of a building 200 feet long by 60, having a chimney about 140 feet high, in which is machinery for rolling copper, &c.; and it is in contemplation to purchase and fill up the swampy ground west of the yard. The work done in this yard is in high repute, as is that done in the various workshops at the Arsenal.

The east wing of the Patent Office, on 7th street, has been raised to its height and roofed; the portice will be commenced in the spring, and, when finished, the whole building will present an imposing appearance. The centre, of freestone, has been painted to correspond with the marble portion.

Around the public offices cast-iron railing has been placed, the workmanship done by Mr. Sneider, founder, in the First Ward; the Treasury building painted white—the building itself is not finished. An appropriation to erect the south wing is much wanted, as more room is required for the transaction of the public business, and to render the records more safe than some of them now are in rented houses.

Progress is still making in the erection of the Washington Monument, its elevation being now 104 feet above ground. A more general and liberal subscription towards it is much needed.

Very extensive new Gas Works have been erected on square C, near the Canal, and very large pipes laid from them up 4½ street to Pennsylvania avenue, and along the avenue towards the Capitol and President's House, with branches; the laying of pipes is still going on.

In the First Ward various streets have been much improved; a new and commodious brick Church has been erected by colored people of the Methodist denomination; various substantial buildings erected, the most prominent of which is Mr. Riggs's. There is a vast quantity of lime burnt at the five different establishments, employing many hands, and for which there is a ready sale. A reservoir has been built at 16th and H streets.

Second Ward.—Water has been conveyed in iron pipes from F up 14th to G, and half way to 15th, down 13th from north side of F to E, and a new Reservoir at F and 13th. Many substantial buildings, a lofty steeple and portico to St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church on H and 15th streets; the old Theatre refitted and the open space in front graded and prepared for enclosing by an iron railing on a granite base. The foundry of McKinstry enlarged, and fully employed at which are made first rate steam engines, &c.; adjoining which are carried on sawing, planing, sash and door frame work. Thompson's Gas Fitting and Plumbing, Skirving's extensive Stove and Tin establishment on Pennsylvania avenue and 11th street, adjoining which is Sneider's factory for machinery and Bell castings; Woodward's iron, tin, and hardware store much enlarged; A. Nailor's extensive new building on E street, south of Pennsylvania avenue, is now occupied by a printing office, coach manufactory, &c. The grading of streets very considerable.

Third Ward.—In this Ward much has been done in opening and improving streets and substantial buildings. At the corner of 7th street and Market space, Miss Dermott's two three-story houses have been pulled down, and five-story buildings erected in lieu of them; adjoining them, two frames have been taken down and replaced by two of three stories, by Mr. Fowler; north of Mr. Fowler an iron front has been put up by Mr. Coyle; Latham's Banking House raised to four stories. An iron front has been put up to Mr. Shank's large building.

Fourth Ward.—Great improvements have been made throughout in grading, paving, and opening streets, remodeling the fronts of buildings for utility and show; but the most imposing and important are the rebuilding of the entire front of Brown's hotel, and Todd's adjoining, five stories high, with white marble front, surmounted by a balustrade, with a handsome colonnade entrance from the street; the whole premises arranged and furnished in the most costly style; the whole front 200 feet, connected with the rear portion of the hotel on C street, of much greater length. Further and extensive additions have been made to the National Hotel of Mr. Cal-

vert, by raising the front on 6th and C streets to range with the avenue front, adding largely in rooms; and to guard against injury from fire reservoirs are provided on the top, having plugs and hose fixtures. The ground floors of both hotels are beautifully fitted up and occupied as stores. Trinity Church completed and occupied.

Fifth Ward.—Some good improvements have been made in grading streets, relaying footways to a lower grade, planting of trees on New Jersey avenue, levelling and enclosing grounds on reservation No. 17. At the termination of the Canal there is abundant room for the reception and shipment of coal from Cumberland, and preparations for this purpose should be made without delay.

Sixth Ward.—A new impetus has been given to improvements throughout, and many have been made; the most important is the grading of 11th street from Pennsylvania avenue to the bridge, which has long been wanted. Now the street being made, it ought to stimulate the owners of property adjoining to curb and pave from Virginia avenue to the bridge, thereby increasing the value of property contiguous to a great extent beyond the cost.

Seventh Ward.—The spirit of improvement in this Ward is still kept up, as is shown by the number of dwellings erected within the year, and the opening of streets. Eleventh, from Maryland avenue to Water street, has been regraded, by cutting down the surplus earth, deposited and levelled on adjoining streets, and also filling behind the river wall on Water, from Eleventh to Thirteenth street. A beautiful new hall, nearly ready for the roof, has been erected on 6th street and Virginia avenue; a new building for a church on 4½ street; a blind, sash and frame factory on 7th, near F street, put up and in operation; the wharf at 7th and M streets enlarged by Mr. Page, who has also built and launched three steamboats from it with success; this, with his factory, steam, and wind-mill, has done much for this portion of the Ward. Mr. Lambell's inclined plane building and repairing yard meets with good encouragement. The arrival and departure of steamboats to Alexandria, Aquia creek, Baltimore, Norfolk, and Richmond are regular, and of other vessels numerous.

Outside the city the improvements keep pace with the demand. Cultivation of the land is more attended to, as is shown by the productions brought to market, which is as well supplied with good articles, and as cheap as can be found in any of those of the seaboard cities. Georgetown is stirring with business, and with a little more enterprise would soon rise into importance, having river and canal facilities for the reception and transport of produce from a vast extent of country. The new Cemetery adjoining Georgetown, laid out by Capt. De la Roche, occupying fifteen acres, is much admired for its rural appearance and well-arranged plan on the bank of Rock creek.

Our neighbors in Alexandria have woke up, as is shown by their new buildings, factories, &c., depots for coal at the extensive wharves at the mouth of the canal, from which Cumberland coal is shipped, and the trade in which will rapidly increase. Their railroad has already been opened for travel thirty-two miles, leading to Gordonville, towards Manasses Gap, and intended to connect the Winchester road at Paddytown. Engines for the road are made in Alexandria, at the factory of the Smiths. The slackwater navigation of Goose creek has in part been completed by Mr. Roach, the contractor, and produce brought down it to Alexandria. By this route a vast amount of produce will be brought to the District cities.

JOHN SESSFORD.

December 31, 1851.

REPORT OF INTERMENTS FROM JULY 1, 1850, TO JUNE 30, 1851,
INCLUSIVE, BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

	White.	Colored.	Unknown.	Total.
July	84	41	12	136
August	82	25	5	112
September	47	20	2	69
October	26	15	1	52
November	43	18	2	63
December	27	15	5	47
January	43	21	1	65
February	47	20	2	69
March	53	26	3	82

April	47	22	2	72
May	48	21	2	71
June	55	20	1	76
	<u>611</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>914</u>

January 1, 1852.

EXHIBIT OF THE NUMBER OF DWELLINGS, &c., ERECTED WITHIN
THE YEAR 1852.

	Total no. Dwellings.	Shops, &c.	Public.	Running ft. pavement laid.
Total Dec. 31, 1848	6,150	390	89	176,196
Erected in 1849	184	9	17	6,322
Do. 1850	292	25	24	6,768
Do. 1851	453	28	44	17,657
	<u>7,079</u>	<u>452</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>206,945</u>

	1852.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Pub.	Running ft. brick pave- ment laid.	Estimated population Dec. 31, '52.
1st Ward	20	46	66	3	1		3,185	7,303
2d "	74	40	114	5	—		2,707	9,673
3d "	40	53	93	2	—		3,102	6,792
4th "	62	94	156	4	1		1,659	10,323
5th "	11	35	46	2	—		2,879	4,287
6th "	6	28	34	—	—		—	4,292
7th "	28	95	123	3	1		2,702	6,669
	<u>241</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>16,234</u>	<u>49,339</u>

The deepening and walling of the Canal from 15th street to the Anacostia has been completed, and several cesspools made along its margin for the reception of the sediment from the drains. The excavations west of 15th street, by dredging, are still unfinished, and vessels which can get to 17th street cannot get from thence to the deep water at 15th street, thus continuing the necessity of unloading at 17th street, or of scow-ing up to the business portion of the city. The work on the Canal should have been begun from the two extremes in sec-tions, and, on the completion of each section, the vessels been admitted bringing in wood, coal, lumber, &c., and thus afford-ing an immediate revenue from the wharfage. The Canal itself ought to have been kept free for vessels to pass up

through draws in the bridges at 14th, 12th and 10th streets, to the Centre Market. Had this been done, a lively and active business would have been created, and the revenue from rentals more than trebled, to the great relief of the General and Ward funds; but instead of this, a narrow, contracted policy has been pursued, to the great injury of the centre portion of the city, by depriving the inhabitants of the free use of the natural highway, and confining the business to boats alone.

The importance of rebuilding the Potomac Bridge is again urged; for no better site can be selected for the interest of the city and the adjoining country in Virginia, reuniting as it would the turnpikes leading to it from Alexandria and the Little River turnpike. At its present site, the bridge can be rebuilt at a much less cost than at any other, and the evils from freshets prevented by making the openings wide enough to pass all drift wood without hindrance; this alone would prevent the backing of water on the wharves of Georgetown and the central portion of the city, and would leave ample water in the channel of 575 feet on the city side, and 942 feet on the Virginia side, leaving the centre causeway of 1,000 feet permanent, as well as those connecting the two shores. The bridge might be increased somewhat in height and breadth, so as to afford convenience for a railroad over it into the city at 14th street, and continued around the squares facing the river and the Monument Square, to 15th street, on the Canal; and on the south side of the Canal, eastward, to some convenient point near Maryland avenue and 3d street.

The extension of the North Market has produced a beneficial effect, and increased attendance. The extension of the Centre Market on 7th and 9th streets to B street is much wanted; the increased income from which would, no doubt, pay double interest on the outlay, and over which might be rooms for many public purposes.

In the First Ward, K street has been graded from 20th street to Pennsylvania avenue; earth removed from H street; a new brick church for colored people has been erected; D street, from 17th to 19th, partly graded; and the new foundry, erected by Messrs. Cathcart and Schneider, enlarged.

In the Second Ward but little has been done on streets, except casually; several alleys have been graded and paved; and in the Third Ward the same.

In the Fourth Ward some streets have been improved by grading, and a very neat and substantial building erected on the corner of 5th and I streets for a Presbyterian church.

In the Fifth Ward the principal improvement of streets has been on those leading to the new Railroad Depot, changing the appearance of the whole neighborhood.

In the Sixth Ward there has not much been done either by grading or improving streets; the grading and paving the footways on both sides of 11th street, south of Virginia avenue, would add much to the value and convenience of that neighborhood.

In the Seventh Ward the principal improvements are the new grading of 11th street and relaying the footway from D to Water street.

Steamboats are engaged in running hourly to and from Alexandria, daily to Aquia creek, weekly to Baltimore and Norfolk, and occasional trips are made to Mount Vernon. The new steam ferry-boat plying from the south end of 7th street to Alexandria is a great convenience to travellers. Various and important manufacturing establishments are in full operation in the city, giving employment to a large number of workmen, concentrating capital, and furnishing a home market for country and other produce. All around the neighborhood of the city are important improvements, on farms, &c. A plank road has been laid from the termination of 7th street, on the turnpike, to the District line, with a prospect of a further extension. The Army Asylum, on a beautiful elevation near Rock Creek Church, on the farm lately owned by Mr. Riggs, is begun. The beautiful place of Mr. Blagden, south of the Anacostia, it is understood, has been selected for the Lunatic Hospital. A site for a new Cemetery, a mile north of the city, has been purchased—late the farm of Mr. Boyle—on a commanding height, and a commencement made, in preparing and laying out the grounds, to an extent sufficient to do away with the necessity of new grave-yards within the city limits.

The Columbian College, so beautifully located on the heights adjoining the north part of the city, is understood to be in a more flourishing condition than it has hitherto been; but it is to be regretted that so little has been done to improve and embellish the grounds, so as to make them as attractive to the eye as those of Mr. Stone, adjoining; and which might be done at a small cost and a little energy.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is doing a good business, producing a lively trade in Georgetown, and the town is steadily growing to importance. Adjoining to it the new Cemetery on Rock creek, laid out on a most romantic site, with great taste and judgment, by Mr. De La Roche, is worth visiting.

Alexandria has been much improved this year by the erection of a large number of buildings in every part of the town, having water, by pipes, and gaslight introduced. The establishment of Smith and Perkins is very extensive, and superior locomotive cars, &c. are made at it, thereby keeping capital at home.

The commencement of the wings of the Capitol, now up to the level of the first floor, and of most solid workmanship, has given a stimulus to private improvements, affording employment to a large body of workmen, besides creating new establishments for the preparation of the necessary materials, and which, no doubt, will be carried up with vigor as soon as the season opens. The old Library-room has been cleared, an iron-framed roof replacing the old wooden one; the alcoves and shelving for books are entirely of ornamental cast-iron, leaving nothing for fire to operate on. The Monument to Washington is now up to 104 feet, with a prospect of a more rapid elevation in 1853, from the increased means which have been obtained. The Smithsonian Institution is steadily progressing in its various branches, and already is a place of much resort; standing in a central position, with extensive and neatly-laid-off grounds, with walks, shrubbery, and grass plats, it already affords a pleasant retreat for recreation. In the Navy Yard extensive improvements have been made in additional buildings and extensive workshops, foundries, &c.,

at which all kinds of work is done for the use of the navy; at which also vessels are built and repaired in a manner not excelled by any other yard. At the Arsenal much activity prevails in the various machine shops, in making and fitting gun carriages, &c., and all the necessary appendages. The extension of the Patent Office Building, on 7th street, is now nearly finished of white marble, and a commencement made on the western wing; the building is on the plan of Town & Elliot, and is much admired for neatness of design and boldness of effect. On the square south is the handsome General Post Office building, already too contracted for the transaction of the business, requiring at least, one of its wings. The City Post Office is too much cramped for room, and occupies very insecure buildings, altogether unsightly and unfit for the purpose. Some further improvements have been made on the grounds of the Observatory; the building requires an extension. Preparations are making in preparing the pedestal on which is to be placed the equestrian statue of Gen. Jackson, one third larger than life, to be placed in Lafayette Square, north of the President's House; the statue is a beautiful piece of workmanship, and reflects great credit on the native talent of Mr. Mills, and will be a great ornament and much admired.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1853.

IMPROVEMENTS, &C., IN THE YEAR 1853.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops.	Additions.	Running ft. brick pave- ment laid.	Total no. of dwigs.
1st	36	41	77	1	3	425	1,317
2d	64	39	101	4	11	3,662	1,476
3d	28	51	79	2	15	5,705	1,211
4th	43	44	87	2	13	2,552	1,505
5th	17	47	64	1	—	1,942	807
6th	5	25	30	3	3	2,062	774
7th	35	83	118	9	6	1,431	1,175
	<u>216</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>17,779</u>	<u>8,265</u>

NUMBER OF HOUSES, &C., ERECTED IN WASHINGTON CITY IN EACH YEAR
FROM 1819, THE NUMBER AT THAT TIME BEING ASCERTAINED BY
ACTUAL COUNT BY MYSELF, AND CONTINUED UNTIL
THE END OF 1853.

Years.	Brick.	Wood.	Total number of houses.	Shops, &c.	Additional.
1819	929	1,103	2,028	129	—
1820	68	45	113	9	—
1821	42	48	90	—	—
1822	64	49	113	7	6
1823	33	36	69	7	9
1824	28	21	49	6	8
1825	40	28	68	15	10
1826	62	40	102	23	15
1827	—	—	123	25	23
1828	73	85	158	23	24
1829	83	65	158	15	17
	533	500	1,033	130	113
1830	86	92	178	24	14
1831	60	88	148	38	—
1832	—	—	62	12	—
1833	34	38	72	12	12
1834	14	49	63	11	7
1835	15	27	42	10	18
1836	18	23	41	15	15
1837	16	47	63	18	9
1838	40	45	85	21	9
1839	40	101	141	12	14
			896	173	99
1840	56	122	178	13	14
1841	43	173	216	23	13
1842	82	213	295	14	21
1843	85	237	322	10	23
1844	91	266	357	18	24
1845	112	226	338	28	24
1846	86	122	208	16	17
1847	37	81	128	6	9
1848	57	84	141	11	29
1849	74	110	184	9	17
			2,367	148	191
1850	124	168	292	25	24
1851	—	—	453	28	44
1852	241	391	632	19	3
1853	216	340	556	22	51

Number of houses erected from 1819 to 1829—

In the First Ward, 129; Second, 251; Third, 474; Fourth, 68; Fifth, 38; Sixth, 73. Total, 1,033.

Number of houses erected from 1829 to 1839—

In the First Ward, 141; Second, 226; Third, 437; Fourth, 46; Fifth, 175; Sixth, 11. Total, 895.

Number of houses erected from 1839 to 1849—

In the First Ward, 362; Second, 472; Third, 907; Fourth, 217; Fifth, 175; Sixth, 123; Seventh, 109. Total, 2,367.

Number of houses erected from 1849 to 1853—

In the First Ward, 227; Second, 342; Third, 291; Fourth, 390; Fifth, 150; Sixth, 104; Seventh, 429. Total, 1,938.

REMARKS UPON IMPROVEMENTS IN 1853.

Improvements chargeable to the general fund have been few and not of much importance. The completion of the dredging of the Canal between 15th and 17th streets has been neglected, though much needed. The Public school in the 7th Ward has had an additional story and other improvements made to it. The Market House in the 5th Ward has been enclosed and fitted up as a primary school for that section; additional school accommodations is much wanted for the increasing demand. The markets have increased much within the year, and additional room is indispensably necessary for the shelter and comfort of the market people; an enlargement of the building, by erection of the wings on 7th and 9th streets, would double the present; and the present fish shed ought to be removed, and a new place erected on the line of B street for the venders of fish, &c. These improvements ought to be made on a good plan, with a story above; the increased income from which would, without doubt, be more than the interest of the expenditure.

As the Alexandrians are agitating the necessity of a branch railroad to the city, the importance of rebuilding the Potomac Bridge is increased. It should be widened so as to admit of a track for the cars; the openings between the piers enlarged

to not less than sixty feet, so as not to impede the driftwood in time of freshets. The road, on entering the city, might easily pass along the river shore to the mouth of the Tiber, and then eastward as far as necessary towards 3d street, on the south side of the Canal.

In the city are forty-eight places of worship, viz: Ten for Methodist and Methodist Protestants, Presbyterians seven, Episcopalian six, Baptist five, Roman Catholic five, Lutheran two; Friends, Unitarians, Congregational, and Swedenborgian one each; and also nine for colored congregations.

In the First Ward not much has been done in the opening or improving streets and casual repairs.

In the Second Ward but little has been done on streets, except relaying gutters and the repaving of two or three large alleys; the extension of iron water-pipes on 13th, from E to C streets. An extensive building has been erected by Mr. Coyle on B street, for sawing, planing, and turning and grooving, which is doing a good business. The foundry and machine shops of the Messrs. Ellis, adjoining, are fully employed, and turn out the best of work of all kinds in that line. There is also adjoining this the sash and frame factory of McLean and Ager. Various improvements have been made by pulling down old buildings. Such have been replaced by splendid ones; such as Gautier's, Coyle and Baylis', Hughes's, &c.

In the Third Ward there has been an extension of the sewer on 9th street to the north side of Massachusetts avenue, and on I from 8th to 9th streets; some squares gravelled, flagways laid, and alleys paved. Important and good improvements have been made at the City Post Office; and the old buildings north of the Market pulled down and rebuilt in a beautiful style by Mr. S. Hill.

In the fourth Ward some good improvements have been made on the streets, old houses pulled down and rebuilt, a new sash and frame factory erected on D and 1st streets.

In the Fifth Ward some improvements have been made, by grading and filling and ponds; there have also been erected marble-works on the edge of the canal.

In the Sixth Ward but little has been done of importance on streets, &c., but some filling of low lots has been made to remove nuisances. The baptist Church has been rebuilt, and now occupied.

In the Seventh Ward casual repairs have been made, and three new churches erected, two for Presbyterians and one for Roman Catholics; a further progress in grading the footways on 11th street, south of Maryland avenue; a new lime kiln has been erected near Virginia avenue and the Canal by Mr. Seeley.

The Gas Company have extended their line of lamps to Georgetown, and have commenced laying pipes from the Capitol to 8th street east, on Pennsylvania avenue, and have laid down various branches in the central part of the city.

Great progress has been made on the wings of the Capitol and the west wing of the Patent Office; and the grade of 7th street, from E towards G, has been reduced and repaved, improving the appearance of the east front of the Patent Office, producing the necessity of regrading F street, between 8th and 9th, and the necessity of cutting down 8th to the south of E street. The grounds south of the President's House further improved; Lafayette square beautifully laid out and enclosed by an iron fence, which, with the Jackson statue, is much admired.

In the neighborhood of the city great improvements have been made in agriculture, building, &c, and quite a village of new buildings have been erected north of Boundary street, west of the Turnpike Gate, by Mr. Kendall.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 2, 1854.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

IMPROVEMENTS, &c., IN THE YEAR 1854.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood Dwellings.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.
1	28	34	62	4	4
2	33	10	43	6	11
3	30	47	77	1	4
4	30	55	85	2	6
5	24	11	35	1	3
6	2	13	15	3	—
7	21	67	88	1	2
	168	237	405	18	30

Ward.	Running feet of brick pave- ment laid.	Total Number of Dwellings	Ratio of population in Wards.
1	7,436	1,379	8,122
2	7,758	1,519	9,964
3	9,869	1,288	7,728
4	3,267	1,590	11,479
5	3,945	842	5,052
6	2,623	789	4,734
7	5,964	1,263	7,956
	40,862	8,670	55,035

The total number of running feet of brick pavement on the 31st December, 1854, was 281,940, (4,200,000 superficial feet of paved footway.)

The assessment valuation of real and personal property and stocks amounts to \$24,802,773, yielding an income of about \$161,816, after deducting the discount for prompt payment, expense of collecting, &c.

There are twenty-seven public schools, having thirty-seven teachers and 2,065 scholars, at a cost of \$17,733.

The funded debt is \$62,580 at five per cent. and \$680,670 at six per cent., being a total of \$743,250; to which add \$50,000 preferred bonds, of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

The following table exhibits the number of deaths, as reported by the Board of Health, for the year ending June 30. 1854.

1853.	White.		Colored.		Total.	Ages.	No.
	M.	F.	M.	F.			
July	73	56	20	22	171	Unknown	8
August	46	56	11	14	127	Under 1	380
September	45	42	9	18	114	1 to 5	217
October	28	39	11	7	85	5 to 10	52
November	26	34	14	17	91	10 to 15	16
December	35	22	5	12	74	15 to 20	41
1854.							
January	40	33	8	13	94	20 to 30	105
February	37	22	10	14	83	30 to 40	114
March	50	38	15	15	118	40 to 50	86
April	40	21	10	16	87	50 to 60	63
May	26	32	12	13	83	60 to 80	100
June	50	23	5	4	82	Over 80	27
	496	418	130	165	1,209		1,209

Extensive and valuable improvements have been made, at the Navy Yard. The pavement at the west end of Pennsylvania avenue is completed, except the enclosure of the circle. Great progress has been made on the west wing of the Patent Office, which will be enclosed this year, and the beautiful room at the east end is now occupied by models. Much progress has been made in the brick work and arching on the interior of the wings of the Capitol, and, from the large amount of marble on hand as well as number of workmen employed, it may be presumed that the exterior wall will be rapidly carried up. The Washington Monument has risen to 170 feet in height, and, if sufficient means be obtained, will soon be a great object of attraction. The beautiful blocks which have been received from States, Towns, and Societies, now under the sheds, are much admired. The grounds south of the President's House, as also those of the Smithsonian Institution, have been greatly embellished. The Smithsonian building has been made more solid by the removal of a great deal of woodwork. The new lecture room in the centre is large and splendid, having two large square rooms, one at each end, about fifty feet square. The lower centre of the edifice, 200 by 50, is completed. It will be first occupied in February by the Mechanics's Institute Fair, which will no doubt be a great place of resort during its continuance, as no effort will be wanting to make it what it ought to be.

First Ward.—Some solid improvements have been made in the filling up of the low grounds, grading of streets, and relaying footways to the new grades on Pennsylvania avenue, costing considerable to the owners; but they will be benefited much more than the cost. A new and substantial fence has been put around the Western Grave Yard. The gas pipes have been greatly extended, and a large and handsome gas reservoir erected. A new and neat Presbyterian Church is being erected.

Second Ward.—Several streets have been graded and gravelled. The old Presbyterian Church on New York avenue has been remodelled and a tower erected. A large culvert is made on Thirteenth street, from E to the Canal.

Third Ward.—Good improvements have been made in some of the streets and additional drainage by the extension of culverts. A new Methodist Church is erected on New York avenue, near Fourth street, in square 514.

Fourth Ward.—Much has been done in extending culverts for drainage, and cutting down and filling up streets to the proper grade.

Fifth Ward.—Considerable has been done in grading, &c., and a neat brick Methodist Church erected.

Sixth Ward.—Much cutting has been done on Seventh street and many lots filled up. Extensive stables have been erected by Mr. Vanderwerker; also, a large and substantial stone building as an ice and meat house. The Congressional Burial Ground has been greatly enlarged to the west, and active measures are in progress for the erection of an iron fence on its front in lieu of the present temporary one of wood. Lamps have been placed on the line of Pennsylvania avenue, from the Capitol east to Eighth street.

Seventh Ward.—The improvements in this Ward have been great and very important. Maryland avenue has been regraded west of Eleventh street to the Potomac.

Adjacent to the city great improvements have been made in the erection of country seats. The new Cemetery has been opened for use and a large and substantial vault erected at a great expense. The opening and improving of North Capitol street is much needed, it being the direct road to the

Cemetery, and also to the Soldiers' Home, to Rock Creek Church, and to the road leading into the eastern part of Montgomery county. The continuance of the Alexandria Railroad to the west end of the Potomac Bridge is much wanted, being the shortest and cheapest route. To meet it the bridge should be widened and also raised so as to be more level with the draws. The road should be continued on the margin of the Potomac to the mouth of the Tiber, and along the south side to any point desirable, nearly connecting with the Baltimore railroad. It is much to be regretted that the Water Works, which were commenced with such flattering prospects, should be suspended. Strong hopes are entertained that this will not long be the case. JOHN SESSFORD.

January 9, 1855.

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CITY OF
WASHINGTON, BY OUR VENERABLE AND
ESTEEMED FELLOW-CITIZEN, JOHN
SESSFORD.

EXHIBIT OF THE NUMBER OF DWELLINGS, &C., ERECTED WITHIN
THE YEAR 1855.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Additions.	Shops, &c.	Total no. Dwellings.
1st	15	15	30	4	1	1,409
2d	20	17	39	13	2	1,556
3d	21	6	27	3	1	1,315
4th	33	25	58	8	1	1,646
5th	9	30	39	2	1	881
6th	—	18	18	1	—	807
7th	10	33	43	2	2	1,306
	<u>110</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8,920</u>

Wards.	Rate per house.	Estimated inhabitants.	Running feet brick pavement laid.
1st	6.	8,454	3,082
2d	6.75	10,503	15,990
3d	6.33	8,324	2,978
4th	7.23	11,900	
5th	6.	5,286	2,452
6th	6.50	5,245	2,789
7th	6.50	8,489	
		<u>58,201</u>	

The assessed value of all kinds of real and personal property, including bank and other stocks, for the year ending June, 1856, is \$25,568,703. The rate of the assessment is sixty cents per \$100, and will yield, when collected, after deducting the amount for prompt payment, the sum of \$142,412. The true interest of the city requires the assessment to be increased, as heretofore, to seventy-five cents on the \$100, which would enable the Councils to make the necessary improvements and increase the sinking fund.

First Ward.—A neat and well-arranged new market-house, with iron supports, has been erected on north K, between 18th and 19th streets, having thirty-two stalls for butchers, all of which have been taken at an average of over \$78 each. There are also convenient benches, all under shelter, on each side, some of which have been taken at \$50 each. The building is well covered, is paved inside, and is two hundred feet in length. The old unsightly market-house has been pulled down to make room for an angular enclosure of iron railing.

Second Ward.—With the exception of the grading and gravelling of some streets in the lower portion of the Ward, the most important improvement is the curbing and paving of 14th street from K to the northern boundary on both sides, with flag crossings a part of the distance. The street itself has also been graded a part of the way. The footway on the east side of Vermont avenue is laid to O street. The grading, enclosing, and paving of the circle intersecting Massachusetts and Vermont avenues and 14th and M streets remains to be done, for which there is an appropriation. Other improvements have been made, but not of much magnitude. On the Baptist Church, on 13th street, has been erected a lofty steeple, with a fine-toned bell.

Third Ward.—In this Ward less than usual has been done from ward funds, but some good improvements have been made in the northeast portion in the extension of footways. A large engine-house has been erected at the intersection of New York avenue and 6th street. The Centre-market square is within the limits of this ward, having a length of 500 by 279 feet (being 1,558 feet circumference,) of which only 530 feet

is now built on. The present building is only thirty-four feet wide, including walls; its elevation inside is sixteen feet. It has a projecting shed of twenty-six feet, divided into two parts for country use, &c. An extension of the building is much wanted to supersede the present unsightly fixtures. One of the wings might be erected with a hall above, similar to the one in Baltimore, with the Mechanics' Institute above. That hall was built as follows:

9,019 shares, at \$5 each	\$45,095
6,400 do do	32,000
Paid by city (market)	25,000
	<hr/> \$102,095

It is 355 by 60 feet, and 65 high. The long room is 255 by 60.

Fourth Ward.—Some general improvements have been made in various portions of the ward in grading and graveling, and the carriage-way of C street pebble-paved from 4½ to 3d street.

Fifth Ward.—Not much has been done in general improvements. The rails for the line of railway from the Baltimore depot have been laid, crossing New Jersey avenue to 1st street, down 1st to Maryland avenue, thence down it to the canal at 3d street, and continuing along Maryland avenue towards the Potomac Bridge.

Sixth Ward.—Much has been done in reducing the grade of streets, making the incline more gradual, the accomplishment of which has necessarily caused the proprietors of property in some cases to underpin their houses.

Seventh Ward.—But little has been done to improve streets, &c. A new place of worship has been erected on square 535.

The extension of the Treasury building has commenced, and a considerable portion of the cellar-foundation walls laid of hammered granite, thick and solid work. The extension of the General Post Office has all its foundation and part of the arching laid, with a small commencement of the marble work. The west wing of the Patent Office will soon be completed. A portion of it is already occupied by the Land Office, and soon

the whole of that office will be removed to it. The eastern room on 7th street has been completed, fitted up, and is occupied by models of patents, all arranged in handsome cases. The work on both extensions of the Capitol has been expeditiously progressed with, on its exterior, and, as progress has been made in the iron roofing, some of the rooms have been finished and fitted up in a beautiful style. The centre dome has been removed preparatory to the erection of the new one, according to the model of Mr. Walter, which will be very lofty. At the Navy Yard extensive new buildings have been erected and nearly completed, affording room for the manufacture of every article almost which is required for the navy.

- On the 1st of December the Minnesota steamship of war was launched in a beautiful style. Should she prove equal to those vessels built at this yard heretofore she will have cost less and will run longer without repairs than those built in other yards.

In the immediate neighborhood of the city is the Columbia College, now in a prosperous condition, and having an increased faculty. It is situated on a beautiful site overlooking the city, having around it ample grounds, no portion of which ought ever to be diminished by sale. Additional accommodations have been made by the erection of a new building for the steward. The grounds require embellishing by walks, grass plots, &c. The Soldiers' Home, situated on an eminence north of the city, presents a noble appearance, and its workmanship is highly creditable to the contractor, Mr. Gilb. Cameron.

STATEMENT BY THE LATE WILLIAM ELLIOT.

Circumference of the city	14 miles.
Containing 310,838,285 square feet	7,134 acres.
Length of streets, deducting intersections	199 miles.
Do avenues do	65 miles.
Streets and avenues contain	3,605
Reservations	542
Do deduct 10, 11, 12 sold	29—4,146 acres.

Areas of squares, 131,684,176 square feet.

United States one-half, 1,508 acres.

Proprietors one-half, 1,508.

Contents of new squares A, B, C, D, 717,000 square feet.

Reservations 10, 11, 12 sold, 1,263,240 square feet.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1856.

CITY STATISTICS.

STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON DURING THE YEAR 1856.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Additions.	Shops, &c.	Running ft. of brick pavement.
1st	17	14	31	4	1	1,917
2d	11	15	25	6	3	—
3d	22	5	27	3	—	1,540
4th	18	6	24	2	2	—
5th	11	11	22	1	1	2,083
6th	6	6	12	—	—	—
7th	8	3	11	—	—	—

The following valuations of property, &c. furnished by the Tax Clerk, exhibit the values of the various kinds of taxable property:

Wards.	Ground.	Improvements.	Household.	Slave property.
1st	\$2,438,485	\$1,601,400	\$245,450	\$49,000
2d	2,735,883	2,154,856	323,156	51,200
3d	1,806,486	1,710,299	178,650	71,250
4th	2,775,245	2,879,642	398,458	97,550
5th	1,098,250	1,006,200	91,050	30,400
6th	470,104	409,550	31,700	24,200
7th	1,157,252	838,310	61,500	37,875

Wards.	Personal.	Total.
1st	\$12,525	\$4,346,860
2d	8,325	5,273,408
3d	9,550	3,831,235
4th	18,300	6,169,187
5th	6,550	2,232,450
6th	3,075	998,629
7th	6,815	2,100,853

\$24,952,322

Bank stocks 1,002,061

Other stocks 85,935

\$26,040,318

Improvements which were unquestionably necessary have been entirely stopped by the unwise legislation of the Councils in reducing the tax from 75 cents to 60 cents, and now only 65 cents on the \$100. There is no good reason why the tax should not be raised to its maximum. By so doing the funds would be increased so as to enable the Councils to make improvements in the respective Wards, and also would enable them to increase the Sinking Fund so as to reduce the debt of the city.

Great success has attended the erection of the new West Market-house, the stalls in which were sold at auction on the 16th of November, 1855, realizing \$2,590—being a handsome income on the amount of its cost. The improvements on the North Market have had the same effect. Both markets are now well attended. Plans have been adopted for the erection of a new Centre Market on its present site, which has a north and south front each of 498 feet, and on Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth streets 275 feet each, having an outer front of over fifteen hundred feet. The enlargement of this market is much wanted. If deemed expedient to commence the whole according to the plan, why not extend the wings on Seventh and Ninth streets to the line of B street, and remove the fish market to B street, fronting the Canal? The erection of the wings could easily be accomplished, and no doubt the increased revenue from stalls would greatly exceed the interest on the outlay, and would fully justify an immediate commencement. This being a part of the permanent plan, room enough would be afforded for some time to come, and all the obstructions on the north front now complained of might be removed, including the engine-house.

First Ward.—But little has been done on streets. Mr. Riggs's elegant building, on I street, is nearly completed. It has a front of about 60 feet, and is fitted up with all the modern improvements. Great progress has been made on the south Treasury building extension, the front of which is of granite.

Second Ward.—The principal improvement has been the reduction of the grade of the carriage and footway between

G and H streets, and the gravelling of C street, west of 10th street. The old Franklin engine-house has been removed, and the angle enclosed by a neat cast-iron railing. At the corner of Thirteenth and K streets a lofty and elegant house has been erected by Mr. Lindsay: its situation is elevated, having a fine prospect all around. The large commodious house of Mr. Young, on Fifteenth street, between D and E streets, is so far completed as to be partially occupied. Fifteenth street ought to be properly graded and gravelled from Pennsylvania avenue to B street. Mr. Schneider's elegant new front of four stories, divided into two stores, adds much to the beauty of the square. The extensive grain mill of Coltman & Duncanson, on Ohio avenue, has been completed, and is now in full operation, producing the finest of flour. Great credit is due them for their enterprise, as well as for the encouragement of home industry, their machinery having been made in the city. The engine, &c., made by the Messrs. Ellis, at their establishment, cannot be excelled. Immediately north of the mill a four-story building has been erected for a coach factory.

Third Ward.—Additional underground drainage has been provided, and improvements made on the Northern Market. The west front of the Patent Office is enclosed, and the lower rooms are occupied by the General Land Office. A commencement has been made on the north front, between Seventh and Ninth streets. When completed, there will be a hollow square in the centre. The whole front is of white marble, as is also that of the General Post Office extension, on the north of which will be the City Post Office.

Fourth Ward.—On the streets but little has been done. A large culvert has been built over the drain near the jail. The old Wesley Chapel has been pulled down, and by the energy of the trustees a new and elegant building has been erected, 90 by 60 feet, very lofty, with ample accommodations for Sunday schools, &c. below. The room for public worship is well arranged on the plan of the Smithsonian lecture-room, and the whole is finished in a superior style. A very conspicuous object in this Ward is Mr. Wendell's very extensive new build-

ing for a printing office, &c., which is over 240 feet long by 60 feet wide, and four-stories high, with a cupola and a bell. The great number of persons to be employed in this building will add much to the population of its neighborhood.

Fifth Ward.—Some deep cuttings have been made for the laying of footways. On Indiana avenue the arch over the Tiber has been extended to the full width of the street, which will be a great benefit to that neighborhood and convenient to communication with the railroad depot. Considerable grading has been done on the grounds attached to the United States hot houses. The work on and within the Capitol extension has been carried on throughout the year with great vigor. Many rooms have been completed and occupied by committees. These rooms are frescoed in a style superior to any thing of the kind ever done here, and are much visited by strangers. The Court of Claims is accommodated in the north building. The extension of the west terrace from the extreme north to the south would add much to the beauty of the whole west front, instead of the unsightly filling against the walls, which precludes all chances of ventilation from the immense vaults or cellars.

Sixth Ward.—The grading of Seventh street east has been continued and some of the grounds filled up. Within the Navy Yard great improvements have been made in additional workshops, &c.

Seventh Ward.—Very little has been done on streets &c. In this Ward is situated the Washington National Monument, on which nothing has been done within the past year, and there appears to be but poor prospects for the present. Enterprising and public-spirited managers are wanting to forward this great work. A lofty brick building has been erected on the Mall to be occupied as an Armory for the city volunteers and for the deposit of military trophies. Rails have been laid from the railroad depot to Maryland avenue, and along that avenue to the Potomac bridge. The railroad from the Virginia side of the Potomac, on the line of the turnpike to Alexandria, has been completed, and cars have been running on it for some time, carrying daily a large number of pas-

sengers, &c. The travelling line stops at the bridge from whence passengers are brought over in omnibuses. The number of persons who use this conveyance to Alexandria and the south show clearly its utility, and the necessity of making this the great thoroughfare from North to South. The expense of making a better bridge across the two channels with sufficient spans between the piers, so as not to obstruct the passage of ice or driftwood, would certainly not be equal to the cost of a new structure at any of the points spoken of. Besides, the latter would interfere with the chartered rights of the two turnpikes south to Alexandria, which meet the Little River turnpike. Remove this bridge with the causeway entirely, and in a short time there would be no city or Georgetown channels, as the upper alluvial would settle on its wide expanse.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 5, 1857.

CITY STATISTICS.

Our readers are accustomed to look with interest for the annual Statistical Table prepared by the venerable John Sessford, who has himself grown up with the city, and who has watched its progress with paternal solicitude. It will be seen that, notwithstanding the money pressure and the high price of labor in consequence of the heavy amount of public work, there has been a fair proportion of private buildings erected, and the improvement of the streets has been carried on by our city authorities to the full extent of the means at their disposal. Every year develops the beauty and good taste of the original design for the National Metropolis.

STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON DURING THE YEAR 1857.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Running feet of pavement laid.
1st	12	7	19	—	2	7,975
2d	37	12	49	2	9	—
3d	30	8	38	1	1	—
4th	26	11	37	3	3	1,330
5th	10	10	20	3	3	368
6th	9	4	13	—	—	488
7th	19	6	25	—	1	5,539
	<hr/> 143	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 201	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 15,700

Wards.	Number of Dwellings.	Estimated Census.
1st	1,457	9,746
2d	1,635	11,016
3d	1,321	9,362
4th	1,677	12,124
5th	999	6,233
6th	754	4,901
7th	1,328	8,632
	<u>9,171</u>	<u>61,014</u>

Total running feet footways, 330,349.

First Ward.—The following improvements have been made in the grading and gravelling of streets: Twenty-second street from Pennsylvania avenue to E; F street, from Twentieth to Twenty-third; K street, from Fifteenth to Twenty-second; Twentieth street, from I to L; and L street, from Fifteenth to Nineteenth.

Second Ward.—A large brick culvert down Thirteenth street, between north E and G; Ohio avenue graded and gravelled; also, north L, from Twelfth to Fourteenth streets; Franklin engine-house built on north D, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets—it is a neat substantial building, with a large meeting-room, &c.; large addition and improvements to Epiphany church, on G street.

Third Ward.—Not much has been done on streets, except Seventh street, which has been regraded and gravelled north of H street; a neat Episcopal church has been erected on square No. 448, corner of N and Sixth streets; a shed vegetable market has been erected on the line of B street, from Seventh to Ninth, five hundred feet long, and now well occupied, by which the cause of complaint from the occupancy of the line of Pennsylvania avenue has been removed. The necessity for an improved market-house still exists, with an ample hall over it for Mechanics' Fairs and other purposes—the Corporation building the lower part and the roof, and the Mechanics' Institute paying for the additional elevation, as was done in Baltimore.

Fourth Ward.—A neat German Lutheran church has been erected on square No. 531, corner of Fourth and D streets;

a Mission church, of brick, on square No. 751; the Unitarian church, corner of D and Sixth streets, has been greatly and substantially improved by stone steps, &c.; an extensive Roman Catholic Seminary and church has been commenced on I street, square No. 623; the bridge on H, between North Capitol and First streets, has been rebuilt; a brick culvert has been laid from I to G streets, down Sixth, and along G to Fifth street; E street has been improved from Fifth street to New Jersey avenue; D street, from Fifth to Seventh; I street, graded and gravelled from Third street to New Jersey avenue; New Jersey avenue, from Massachusetts to New York avenues; and H street, from New Jersey avenue to North Capitol street.

Fifth Ward.—But little has been done on streets.

Sixth Ward.—Tenth street graded and gravelled from Pennsylvania avenue to south N street; the Ebenezer Methodist church, on Fourth street, was pulled down and rebuilt, much enlarged every way, with an extensive basement; a commencement has been made in rebuilding the Asylum in place of the old one, which was burnt down; the modern improvements for heating, cooking, &c. will be introduced; the contractor is Gilbert Cameron; further improvements are in progress in enclosing the grave-yard.

Seventh Ward.—Sixth street has been graded and gravelled from Maryland avenue to South N street; a sea-wall built north of O street; the Monument is still in the same condition as left at the end of year 1856, and, from present appearances, is likely to continue so for some time; the handsome building on the Mall, erected for an Armory, is now ready for occupation, and the grounds within the enclosure have been graded and prepared for a parade ground.

The work on the Capitol has progressed with great rapidity, and is the admiration of all visitors; the frescoing, pailing, flooring, and indeed all the work, is done in a beautiful and substantial manner of masonry, iron, &c. The work on the Patent Office and Post Office is substantial and chaste in construction. Great progress has been made in the Treasury Extension, with granite front, iron windows and doorframes, columns, flues, &c., free entirely of combustible material. An

elegant coach-house and stable for the President's House has been erected, but on a very injudicious site, obstructing the view of the President's House from the avenue and the Capitol. A better position would have been south of the present roadway, which would have afforded more space for the embellishment of the grounds around the President's House. At the west end of the house and on the terrace a commodious hot-house has been erected.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 1, 1858.

STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON DURING
THE YEAR 1858.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Running feet pavement laid.
1st	30	16	46	2	2	7,668
2d	42	17	59	3	4	—
3d	27	10	37	1	2	—
4th	38	1	39	2	5	12,150
5th	11	14	25	1	1	1,672
6th	1	16	17	—	2	398
7th	27	10	37	3	1	2,812
	176	84	260	12	17	62,973

Wards.	Number of dwellings.	Estimated census.
1st	1,503	9,018
2d	1,694	11,414
3d	1,358	9,596
4th	1,716	12,406
5th	1,024	6,656
6th	771	5,011
7th	1,365	8,872
	9,431	62,973

First Ward.—Twentieth street has been graded and gravelled from north L to the boundary, and the footways on both sides completed the same distance. On G street the footway grade has been lowered and the pavement relaid from Twenty-third street to the canal. Considerable progress has been made in filling and grading L street from Fifteenth street to intersection of Pennsylvania avenue, and prepara-

tion for footway. Extensive new gas works in two divisions have been erected at the intersection of G and Twenty-sixth streets, and 20-inch diameter pipes laid from there to the gasometer on K street.

Second Ward.—The brick culvert has been completed to the north side of G on Thirteenth street, and Twelfth street graded from B street to K street on Twelfth street. A lofty steeple has been erected to the Church of the Epiphany, on G, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets. The foundation walls have been laid on the angular square between M and N streets on Fourteenth street and Vermont avenue. As it is probable that the equestrian statue of Gen. Washington by Mr. Mills will soon be ready, I would respectfully suggest that it be placed on the circle formed by the intersection of Massachusetts and Vermont avenues and Fourteenth and M streets north—this site having an elevation of over 85 feet above tide-water, whilst that west of the Northern Market is only about 64 feet.

Third Ward.—The archway is completed over the stream running through square No. 377 from F to E street. Not much has been done on streets. The necessity still continues for a permanent improvement of the Centre Market-house, with a hall over it the whole length, which would no doubt bring in revenue enough to clear the cost in a few years. The majority of the Councils deserve great credit for rejecting the unwise scheme of placing the market on Louisiana avenue; the distance from Ninth to Twelfth street, leaving out Tenth and Eleventh street, being only about 800 feet, whilst the circumference of the present site is over 1,500 feet. The north front might easily be enclosed on a line with Pennsylvania and Louisiana avenues by a neat iron railing, removing thereby all objections heretofore made. No market should be placed in the centre of any street or avenue.

Fourth Ward.—In this ward less has been done than usual on streets. The principal improvement has been the opening of H street to the boundary, near the turnpike gate, and curbing and grading the footway the whole distance from North Capitol street. The execution of the footway laws in-

volve an enormous expenditure of money for the curb gutters, paving cross gutters, and flag connexions, and the passage of every footway act carries with it in every case a necessary appropriation for the gutters. The new Roman Catholic Seminary has been completed in its exterior. It is a lofty and handsome building, built with the best materials of every kind, and is an ornament to that neighborhood.

Fifth Ward.—Some pavements have been laid, but the great thoroughfare to the navy yard is in a wretched condition.

Sixth Ward.—The City Asylum has been rebuilt on an improved plan, and will soon be ready for occupancy. Further improvements have been made in the extension on the graveyard.

Seventh Ward.—South N and O streets have been graded from Four-and-a-half street to the river. The Armory Building, on the Mall, has been completed and is now occupied. The Washington Monument has only been raised four feet by the late Board; measures are, however, being taken for a vigorous carrying on of the work again by the present Board, and by a proper and energetic appeal to its friends will no doubt at an early day be the pride of every patriotic contributor.

The Public Building.—Great progress has been made towards completing the Capitol, Treasury, Post Office, and Patent Office Buildings, and many substantial additional shops have been erected within the navy yard. A renewal of the Potomac bridge, with an additional elevation and widening for a railway, is much wanted. Instead of the present trestlework, it should be built upon piers at an elevation of a hundred feet or over, which would leave freer passage for the water and ice in time of freshets; by which means there would be no backing of water and flooding the wharves, as is now the case. Soon the water will be let into the culverts and pipes from the Powder-Mill Branch, through the 12-inch diameter pipes, to all the public buildings, and it is contemplated to lay a 30-inch main pipe from Rock Creek to the Capitol along Pennsylvania avenue. In my opinion the laying these pipes on the line of K street would be much better; the pavements

would not be broken up, nor work be impeded by passing under the many sewers. On the upper line the branches could be easier attached, distributing the water from a high instead of a low level. This country can furnish the material of excellent quality of every description necessary for the public buildings, such as marble columns, flooring tiles, &c., without sending abroad.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 5, 1859.

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

We are again indebted to our venerable friend, John Sessford, for his annual statement of the progress of improvements in the city of Washington. A resident of the city for nearly sixty years, Mr. Sessford has watched its progress with paternal solicitude, and has seen many broad acres of hill and dale, of wood and water, converted into a city, not merely of "magnificent distances," as the humorist of former times described it, but of magnificent structures, public and private, and capacious and beautiful thoroughfares—a city proverbial for its health, and for the intellectual attractions which render it worthy of the fame of its great founder. Mr. Sessford's labors in making up an annual record entitle him to the thanks of the community whom he has so long and so well served, and will embalm his memory in the hearts of thousands long after he shall have passed away from the scenes of earth.

EXHIBIT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN WASHINGTON CITY IN THE YEAR 1859.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total.	Shops, &c.	Additions.	Total Dwellings
1st	32	30	63	6	5	1,566
2d	61	7	68	5	4	1,762
3d	48	15	63	6	3	1,421
4th	57	21	78	7	4	1,794
5th	10	9	19	1	—	1,043
6th	5	11	16	—	—	787
7th	18	12	31	1	—	1,396
	<u>232</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9,769</u>

Wards.	Supposed census.	Assessment on which is a tax of 80 cents on each \$100.
1st	9,918	\$5,561,572
2d	11,993	6,897,643
3d	10,066	5,579,501
4th	13,070	9,021,862
5th	6,780	3,547,349
6th	5,115	1,471,941
7th	9,073	2,413,112
	65,955	\$34,492,980
An increase on former assessment of		\$11,414,814

First Ward.—A very large gas retort has been erected, and other works connected with it. A large shed has been built and enclosed for the reception of goods brought by the new line of steam packets from the city to New York, which are well patronized. The foundation for the reception of the statue of Washington has been laid within the circle at the intersection of Pennsylvania avenue, K street, 23rd street, and New Hampshire avenue. The cellar story of the building for the Art Union, erecting by Mr. Corcoran, is 105 feet on the south, and 125 feet on 17th street, and so far as done is a substantial piece of work, having brown stone above the foundation, and iron joists for the floor to rest on. The building, when completed, will be a great ornament to the neighborhood. In the ward but little has been done on any of the streets. Several lines of pipes have been laid from those on Pennsylvania avenue for the supplying of water.

Second Ward.—The F street Church, between 14th and 15th, has been sold to the Messrs. Willard, who are now fitting it up for a ball room. The congregation of that church has united with that on New York avenue, whose church has been taken down to make room for an enlarged one, which has been erected on its site, taking in the whole front on H street. It has a lofty basement for Sunday school, &c. The church room is about thirty feet high, and is completed so far as to putting up the rafters; it will have a lofty and handsome steeple; the east entrance is by a lofty flight of steps. The congregation of this united church worship every Sabbath morning in the 10th street Baptist Church, and in the afternoon at the 13th

street Baptist Church, till their new edifice is ready for occupancy. But little has been done in this ward on streets and avenues, but extensive lines of pipes have been laid on various streets for the distribution of water. This ward is abundantly supplied with water in all parts south of north I street, conveyed in iron pipes from the reservoir on 13th street north of I, (and not, as generally believed, from the Franklin Square,) down 13th to F, along F to 12th, to south side of Pennsylvania avenue, branching along various streets within the ward. The supply from Franklin Square is by pipes through the alley west of the De Menou house to New York avenue, along the avenue.

Third Ward.—In this ward the principal improvement has been in changing the grade of 9th street from Pennsylvania avenue to north F street, and paving the carriage way, in connexion with which the grade of E street had to be reduced to 8th street, rendering necessary the regrading and paving of the footway on each side. The paved carriage way has been extended north on 7th street to the south side of L street. Many lines of pipes have been laid for the distribution of water. An extensive building has been erected at the corner of B and 10th streets for machine shop and foundry by J. McClelland, having a front of 110 feet on Louisiana avenue. On the same square, between 9th and 10th streets, the new watch and guard-house is in progress. The store of Perry & Brother, five stories high, at the corner of 9th street and Pennsylvania avenue is a superior building, being fitted up in elegant style, having vaults all around under the footways. The contemplated new market, the plan of which has been adopted, will, when erected, be a great convenience to those attending it, whether as sellers or purchasers.

Fourth Ward.—Many pipes have been laid for the distribution of water, and other city improvements made of less importance. The Presbyterian Church, on 4½ street has been greatly enlarged by an addition to its length and elevating the side walls; thus the lower portion is converted into a session and Sunday school room, whilst the body of the church above is reserved for the congregation. The front has

also been widened to the full width of the lot on each side, having a beautiful front on the street. The old and unsightly building at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and the space at 7th street is being replaced by an elegant building of a modern style, very lofty, with a brown stone front, adding much to the improvement of the square. In this ward is situated the City Hall, which has not sufficient rooms for the offices required to be in it. The extension of the north wing of the western front would afford sufficient room for the Common Council, on the same level with that of the Aldermen, and give one large room on each side of it. The present Council room being too lofty, the difficulty of hearing is great. The probable cost, without the ornaments, would not exceed \$14,000, and the United States might also be induced to extend their part on the east front for the Criminal Court and offices.

Fifth Ward.—But little has been done by the Corporation on streets other than the necessary repairs.

Sixth Ward.—The Infirmary building has been completed and occupied; the western extension of the Eastern Graveyard enclosed and otherwise improved.

Seventh Ward.—But little has been done in the improvement of streets, except the grading of south N street from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to the river, and some footways.

Strenuous efforts are making by different associations of citizens for the procurement of a charter from Congress for a horse railroad from 8th street east to Georgetown, which would be a great and beneficial improvement to both Corporations, uniting the line with the depot to Baltimore, and from that depot a line could easily be made on the south side of the canal around the Monument Square to the Potomac Bridge, and the bridge widened on the north side sufficiently to allow of a rail track at a less expense than at any other site which has been named. The length of the present bridge (which cost originally about \$94,000) is 4,665 feet, of which the causeway is over 1,600 feet. This bridge should be improved by making the opening not less than fifty or sixty feet, and would let all floating trees in time of freshets pass through,

thereby preventing the backing of the water, which is now the case, and overflowing wharves in the city and Georgetown. By joint action of the city and Georgetown, appropriations have been made to clear and deepen the channel by dredging, so as to give at least four feet additional depth at the present obstruction, at the point where the upper current meets the tide, causing the alluvial to be deposited after every freshet. If this improvement be made permanent, which is very doubtful, it will be beneficial. The opening of the channel on the city side would better answer the purpose of the two cities, and could without doubt be made permanent for the accommodation of all the trade which is now divided by the two channels. Various efforts have heretofore been made by the Baltimore interest to divert the southern travel, so as to avoid this city. Surveys have been made in different directions for that purpose by passing at points south or north of the city, so as if possible to divert the travel south from it, and a project is now on foot to pass through the lower counties to a point opposite Aquia creek.

A regular line of steamboats now run from New York to Alexandria and Washington, and meet with good encouragement, and it is to be regretted that there cannot be found men of enterprise to build wharves and warehouses for the commerce that will ultimately be on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, it being a safe harbor at all seasons of the year, free from storm or freshet, with a sufficient depth of water.

For a notice of the improvements on the public buildings reference can be had to the reports of the Heads of Departments.

The Rock Creek basin of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal deprives the city of any trade from the canal, by its filling up with sediment on every freshet; to avoid which I would suggest the propriety of making an aqueduct to the city side, and locking down on the east side, continuing along the city side, leaving the water of the creek to go free over the tumbling-dam. If this were done it would prevent the choking of the canal with sediment.

JOHN SESSFORD.

January 2, 1860.

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

EXHIBIT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN WASHINGTON CITY IN THE YEAR 1860.

Wards.	Brick.	Wood.	Total in the year.	Shops, &c.	Additions.
1st	25	3	28	2	2
2d	30	6	36	4	8
3d	33	4	37	4	3
4th	29	7	36	6	2
5th	8	1	9	1	1
6th	5	7	12	1	—
7th	41	3	44	1	2
	<hr/> 172	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 202	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 18

The aqueduct bridge over Rock Creek is the connecting link between Georgetown and the city at the west end of Pennsylvania avenue. It rests on a double main of water pipes, of forty-two inches diameter each, over which is erected the bridge—a beautiful structure of iron, having a double carriage way, with a substantial railing on each side, and with side footways. The abutments and roadway are all that is now required to make it passable for travel between the two cities, which will without doubt be done soon in 1861. The thirty-inch main from it has been laid through the length of the city to the Navy Yard. The only supply of water at present is from the Powder Mill branch. The main line of Government pipes is along north K street and Massachusetts and New Jersey avenues to the Capitol grounds. A twenty-inch main has been laid on the north side of the Capitol uniting, with the thirty-inch at New Jersey avenue.

First Ward.—In this ward during the year various lines of pipes have been laid, connecting with the United States mains. There have been erected several substantial dwellings; also, a neat brick meeting and school-house has been erected near the boundary, on 20th street west. The Hook and Ladder building, which was burnt, has been rebuilt. The building erected by Mr. Wm. W. Corcoran for an Art Union, is a splendid piece of workmanship, lofty, with a beautiful carved entrance of light brown stone, window-heads and columns of the same material, the whole resting on a basement story of thick stone walls and iron girders. The ex-

terior of the building is nearly completed; it covers a space of 105 by 125 feet, and is now much admired by citizens and strangers, being at the corner opposite the War Office. The Equestrian Statue of Washington has been placed on its pedestal, and will soon be enclosed by an iron railing, affording better protection than the present one.

Second Ward.—In this ward numerous water-mains have been laid, and a handsome two-story brick school-house has been erected on 14th and Q streets north. There have been but few other public improvements. An addition has been made to the Mission Church, on P, between 14th and 15th streets. The Presbyterian Church on New York avenue has been completed and occupied. It is a beautiful structure throughout, with a lofty and neat steeple, and is entered by a double flight of marble steps, with a portico of four marble columns. New York avenue has been reduced to its original grade, and gravelled from 13th to 14th streets, benefiting materially all the houses on both sides of that avenue, and affording additional light to the basements. On the line of 13th street the brick culvert has been extended from G to I, but this improvement was begun too late in the season to allow of the filling to settle. 14th street has been paved from Pennsylvania avenue to north F, but not in accordance with the regulations for the improvement of streets, which require the centre of the street to be equal to the height of the pavement, at the house line, affording room for the water to pass off in the gutters without spreading too much on the street.

Third Ward.—In this ward several water-mains have been laid. A new Corporation Guard-house has been erected on Louisiana avenue, with a steeple and bell. It is substantially built, and is an ornament to the street. It is now occupied, and the old one at the market has been abandoned. The Market-house is in a bad condition, and a new one should be erected without delay, for it cannot be doubted that the additional income would be increased to an amount more than equal to the interest on its cost. The hall above would always be in demand for the Mechanics' Institute and many other exhibitions. At all events the east and west fronts, on 7th

and 9th streets, should be done, and the unsightly sheds which are now on the square should be forthwith removed. The Presbyterian Church on 9th street, between G and H, has been greatly enlarged and very conveniently arranged for the congregation. It has a brick steeple at one corner. Preparations have been made for the erection of a new Southern Church at the corner of 9th and E streets west. A parsonage house has been erected on 9th street, between E and F, for the Methodist Protestant Church. Great progress has been made towards the completion of the Patent and Post Office buildings by the United States.

Fourth Ward.—In this ward very little public improvement has been made. The Presbyterian Church on 4½ street has been completed and occupied. It has a large front, with a neat steeple and bell. The interior is well arranged and commodious. The light, on a dark day, is not sufficient, arising from the stained-glass windows. The Baptist Church on north E street has had a new and handsome front added, with new stairway entrances. It has two low, unsightly towers, one over each entrance, which spoil its appearance. Opposite to this church has been commenced the rear appendages of a large Metropolitan Presbyterian Free Church, fronting on E street. The Colonization Society have erected on the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 4½ street a large and beautiful four-story building. The lower story is of iron, divided for stores; above it is of light colored stone, and ornamented windows, with a balustrade on the top. On the north side of Pennsylvania avenue has been erected a lofty five-story building, with a light-colored stone front. On the south side of the avenue, between 6th and 7th streets, there have been erected two beautiful buildings, four stories high, with iron fronts, having gothic windows (in place of two old houses pulled down,) which add much to the beauty of those squares. The grounds between 4½ and 6th streets and between Missouri avenue and the canal have been much improved by laying them out in gravel walks and flower beds, and by the erection of a house for the propagating of plants, and a house for the preservation of seeds, &c. The footways have been

curbed and paved from 3d to 6th streets. A commencement has been made in the improvement of the City Hall square by the erection of a substantial iron rail enclosure. This, when completed, will be an important improvement. Another important improvement, much wanted, is the extension of the west front of the Hall northwards, which would afford sufficient room for a new Council Chamber on a line with the present Aldermen's room. It would also afford other rooms, which are much wanted.

Fifth Ward.—In this ward but little has been done by the city. Great progress has been made towards the completion of the Capitol, in preparing the east entrances, which have deep foundations and substantial brick work for the reception of the steps and columns. The dome has already been carried up to above the second circular range of columns, presenting even now a fine appearance. A vast amount of materials are on hand, consisting of marble columns, &c. A handsome improvement has been made to the Roman Catholic Church on 2d street east, by the erection of a neat steeple, with a fine-toned bell.

Sixth Ward.—Sixth street has been graded from Pennsylvania to Maryland avenue, and some other improvements of less consequence have been made.

Seventh Ward.—One or two streets have been graded and gravelled. A line of footway has been laid on the north side of south B, from 7th to 14th street west, by the United States, and also a line of twenty-inch water-mains laid, to connect with those on Pennsylvania avenue, and from thence to 1st street west, and around the north side of the Capitol.

This communication closes the fiftieth year since I commenced my labors of ascertaining the number of dwellings erected in each year, together with the additions, shops, &c. My labors have been altogether voluntary, costing a deal of labor, and sometimes expense.

JOHN SESSFORD, SR.

December 31, 1860.

Pub. January 1, 1861.

APPENDIX.

PresidentALEXANDER B. HAGNER.

Treasurer WILLIAM HENRY DENNIS.

Corresponding Secretary MICHAEL I. WELLER.

Curator JAMES F. HOOD.

Chronicler

<i>Managers classified according to expiration of term of service...</i>	1909	{	W. B. BRYAN, J. ORMOND WILSON.
	1910	{	JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN, ALLEN C. CLARK.
	1911	{	MRS. CHAS. W. RICHARDSON, E. FRANCIS RIGGS.
	1912	{	JOHN B. LARNER, HUGH T. TAGGART.

COMMITTEES.

On Communications.

ALLEN C. CLARK, <i>Chairman</i> ,	HUGH T. TAGGART,
JAS. DUDLEY MORGAN,	M. I. WELLER,
W. B. BRYAN.	

On Membership.

A. B. HAGNER, <i>Chairman</i> ,	WM. HENRY DENNIS,
M. I. WELLER,	JOB BARNARD,
JAMES F. HOOD.	

On Publication.

JOHN B. LARNER, <i>Chairman</i> ,	ALLEN C. CLARK,
MARY STEVENS BEALL,	E. FRANCIS RIGGS,
JAS. DUDLEY MORGAN,	W. B. BRYAN. •

On Building.

JOB BARNARD, <i>Chairman</i> ,	GEORGE M. KOBER,
JAMES F. HOOD,	JAS. DUDLEY MORGAN,
MRS. MARY STEVENS BEALL,	MRS. CHAS. W. RICHARDSON.

On Exchange.

JAMES F. HOOD, <i>Chairman</i> ,	WM. HENRY DENNIS,
E. FRANCIS RIGGS,	MRS. MARY STEVENS BEALL.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAY 15, 1908.

(Names of Life Members are printed in SMALL CAPITALS.)

Abert, William Stone,	1520 K St.
Addison, Mrs. Clare G.,	1765 N St.
Anderson, Thomas H.,	1531 New Hampshire Ave.
Arms, John Taylor,	2007 Massachusetts Ave.
Ashford, Mrs. Isabella W.,	1763 P St.
Baker, John A.,	1819 H St.
Ballinger, Mrs. Madison A.,	1534 28th St.
Barbour, James F.,	1741 R. I. Avenue.
Barnard, Job,	1306 Rhode Island Ave.
Beall, Mrs. Mary Stevens,	1643 Wisconsin Ave.
Bell, Charles James,	1327 Connecticut Ave.
Blagden, Thomas,	"Argyle," Fourteenth St. ext.
Blair, Henry P.,	Colorado Building.
Blair, John S.,	1416 F St.
Blair, Montgomery,	Corcoran Building.
Blount, Henry Fitch,	"The Oaks," 3101 R St.
Boyd, Leroy Stafford,	312 C St.
Bradley, Charles S.,	1722 N St.
Brice, Arthur T.,	1711 M St.
Britton, Alexander,	1419 F St.
Brown, Chapin,	323 John Marshall Place.
Brown, Glenn,	1925 I St.
Browne, Aldis B.,	1528 P St.
Bryan, (M.D.), Joseph H.,	818 Seventeenth St.
Bryan, Wilhelmus Bogart,	1330 Eighteenth St.
Bukey, Mrs. Jean Magruder,	1828 S St.
Bulkley, Barry,	1612 I Street.
Bundy, Charles S.,	Columbian Building.
Butler, Charles H.,	U. S. Supreme Court.
Butterfield, John W.,	419 Fourth St.
Byington, Miss Marie E.,	1468 Rhode Island Ave.

Cammack, John,	3553 Brightwood Ave.
Carpenter, Frank G.,	1318 Vermont Ave.
Chilton, Robert S., Jr.,	U. S. Consulate, Toronto, Can.
Clark, Allen C.,	605 F St.
Clark, Appleton P., Jr.,	1762 Lanier Ave.
Clephane, Walter C.,	1747 Corcoran St.
Conrad, Holmes,	1421 K Street.
Cook, (M.D.), George Wythe,	3 Thomas Circle.
Cook, John,	Perpetual Building Asso.
Corning, John Herbert,	815 Vermont Ave.
Cox, William Van Zandt,	Brightwood, D. C.
Coyle, Miss Emily B.,	1760 N St.
Cragin, Charles H.,	3127 Dumbarton Ave.
Cull, Judson T.,	317 John Marshall Place.
Curry, Miss Cora C.,	P. O. Box 2294, Station G.
Curtis, William Eleroy,	1801 Connecticut Ave.

Davenport, R. Graham, U.S.N.,	1331 Eighteenth St.
Davidge, Walter D.,	Bond Building.
Davidson, H. Bradley,	1413 G St.
Davis, Miss Adelaide,	213 C St., S. E.
Davis, Eldred G.,	2211 R St.
Davis, Madison,	316 A St., S. E.
Dennis, William Henry,	416 Fifth St.
Devitt, Rev. Edward I.,	Georgetown University.
Dixon, William Suel, U.S.N.,	1336 Nineteenth St.
Douglas, John W.	1705 Thirty-fifth St.
Downing, Mrs. Margaret B.,	1262 Lawrence St., Brookland, D. C.
Dutton, Robert W.,	City Hall.

Eaton, George G.,	1324 South Capitol St.
Edson, John Joy,	1324 Sixteenth St.
Ellicott, Eugene,	2205 De Lancey Pl., Phila., Pa.

Ffoulke, Charles Mather,	2013 Massachusetts Ave.
Fischer, Victor G.,	2605 Fourteenth St.
Flather, William J.,	Riggs Bank.

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Fletcher, Miss Alice C.,	214 First St., S. E.
Ford, Worthington C.,	Library of Congress.
Fraser, Daniel,	1626 P St.
Gadsby, Mrs. J. Eakin,	3114 R St.
Gale, Thomas M.,	2300 S St.
Galt, Sterling,	1861 Mintwood Place.
Gilkey, Miss Malina A.,	1410 M St.
Glover, Charles C.,	1703 K St.
Graham, Andrew B.,	Graham Building.
Granger, John Tileston,	1838 Connecticut Ave.
Hagner, Alexander Burton,	1818 H St.
Hallock, E. S.,	205 E St.
Harlan, John M.,	U. S. Supreme Court.
Harries, George H.,	Fourteenth & E. Capitol Sts.
Hart, William O.,	134 Carondelet St., New Orleans, La.
Harvey, Frederick L.,	622 F St.
Hearst, Mrs. Phoebe Apperson,	Pleasanton, Cal.
Hemphill, John J.,	2108 Bancroft Place.
Henderson, John B., Jr.,	1601 Florida Avenue.
Henning, George C.,	Wash. Safe Deposit Co.
Henry, J. William,	1319 F St.
Heurich, Christian,	1307 New Hampshire Ave.
Hibbs, William B.,	Hibbs Building.
Hill, William Corcoran,	1724 H St.
Hood, James Franklin,	1017 O St.
Hopkins, James H.,	1324 Eighteenth St.
Hornblower, Joseph C.,	2030 Hillyer Place.
Howard, George H.,	1914 N St.
Hoxie, Mrs. Vinnie Ream,	1632 K Street.
Hughes, Percy M.,	318 B St., S. E.
HUTCHESON, DAVID,	P. O. Box H, E. Capitol Sta.
Hyde, Thomas,	1537 Twenty-eighth St.
Jackson, Miss Cordelia,	3010 O St.
Jameson, J. Franklin,	Carnegie Institution.

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Janin, Mrs. Violet Blair,	12 Lafayette Square.
Johnson, Jerome Blakeslee,	805 H St.
Johnston, James M.,	1628 K St.
Jones, Thomas R.,	National Safe Deposit Co.
KASSON, JOHN ADAM,	1726 I St.
Kelly, Henry A.,	P. O. Department.
Kern, Charles E.,	1328 Harvard St.
Kibbey, Miss Bessie J.,	2025 Massachusetts Ave.
Kingsman, (M.D.), Richard,	711 East Capitol St.
Knox-Heath, Mrs. Nelly Lloyd,	147 Highland Ave., Newton- ville, Mass.
Kober, George M.,	1603 19th Street.
Lambert, Tallmadge A.,	2209 Massachusetts Ave.
Lansburgh, James,	2511 Fourteenth St.
Larcombe, John S.,	1817 H St.
Larner, John Bell,	Wash. Loan and Trust Bldg.
Laws, Samuel Spahr,	1732 Q St.
Lee, Blair,	344 D St.
Lenman, Miss Isobel Hunter,	1100 Twelfth St.
Lothrop, Alvin Mason,	Cor. Eleventh and F Sts.
Lowndes, James,	1515 Massachusetts Ave.
Lynch, John, Jr.,	1335 F St.
McCarthy, Miss Helena,	915 Fifteenth St.
McGee, W J,	Director, Pub. Museum, 3d and Pine Sts., St. Louis, Mo.
McGill, J. Nota,	Woodley Lane.
McGuire, Frederick Bauders,	1333 Connecticut Ave.
McKee, David R.,	1753 Rhode Island Ave.
McKee, Frederick,	507 E St.
McKenney, F. D.,	1317 F St.
McLanahan, G. William,	1601 Twenty-first St.
Macfarland, H. B. F.,	District Building.
Magruder, (M.D.), G. Lloyd,	4 Jackson Place.
Magruder, John H.,	1843 S St.
Marshall, James Rush,	1516 H St.

Mason, Otis Tufton,	U. S. National Museum.
Matthews, Henry S.,	1410 G St.
Mattingly, William F.,	1616 H St.
May, Frank P.,	634 Pennsylvania Ave.
May, George J.,	634 Pennsylvania Ave.
May, Henry,	1325 K St.
Mearns, William A.,	1319 F St.
Meriwether, Colyer,	P. O. Box 65.
Merritt, William E. H.,	1403 H Street.
Mickley, Miss Minnie F.,	1339 L Street.
Miller, J. Barton,	1621 Thirty-fifth St.
Moore, Frederic Lawrence,	1680 Thirty-first St.
Moore, Mark W.,	Mgr. Law Reporter Co.
Moore, Mrs. Virginia Campbell,	1680 Thirty-first St.
Morgan, (M.D.), James Dudley,	919 Fifteenth St.
Morris, Martin F.,	1314 Massachusetts Ave.
Morris, Miss Maud Burr,	1603 Nineteenth St.
Moss, George W.,	1411 G St.
Mott, Rev. Edward Marshall,	1822 Fourth St.
Neale, Sidney C.,	1306 F St.
Newcomb, Simon, U.S.N.,	1620 P St.
Norris, James L.,	501 F St.
Noyes, Theodore Williams,	1730 New Hampshire Ave.
O'Connell, Rt. Rev. D. J.,	Catholic University.
Owen, Frederick D.,	3 Grant Place.
Owen, Owen,	423 Eleventh St.
Oyster, James F.,	1314 Rhode Island Ave.
Parker, E. Southard,	1738 Connecticut Ave.
Parris, Albion K.,	3022 P St.
Parsons, Arthur J.,	1818 N St.
Payne, James G.,	2112 Massachusetts Ave.
Peacock, Miss Virginia T.,	2466 Ontario Road.
Pellew, Henry E.,	1637 Massachusetts Ave.
Pelz, Paul J.,	2011 F St.
Pentland, Andrew W.,	1330 Eighteenth St.

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Perry, R. Ross,	344 D St.
Pinchot, Gifford,	Bureau of Forestry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
Porter, Miss Sarah Harvey,	1834 K Street.
Pratt, Frederick W.,	Corcoran Building.
Ramsay, Francis M., U.S.N.,	1923 N St.
Rheem, Clarence B.,	Fifteenth and H Sts.
Richardson, Mrs. Charles W.,	1317 Connecticut Ave.
Richardson, Francis Asbury,	1308 Vermont Ave.
Riggs, E. Francis,	1311 Massachusetts Ave.
Rittenhouse, David,	1607 Twenty-eighth St.
Rives, Mrs. Jeannie Tree,	1818 Jefferson Place.
Robbins, James,	1314 Vermont Ave.
Rudolph, Cuno H.,	Stoneleigh Court.
Saul, John A.,	344 D St.
Shand, Miles M.,	Department of State.
Shands, (M.D.), A. R.,	Cor. 16th and I Streets.
Shir-Cliffe, William H.,	War Department.
Shoemaker, Louis P.,	612 14th Street.
Shuey, Theodore F.,	The Driscoll.
Simmons, B. Stanley,	Warder Building.
Simpson, Henry K.,	1207 E. Capitol St.
Simpson, (M.D.), John Crayke,	1738 Fifteenth St.
Sleman, John B., Jr.,	The Union Savings Bank.
Sloar, Charles G.,	1407 G St.
Small, John H., Jr.,	Cor. Fourteenth and G Sts.
Smith, Rev. Roland C.,	1461 R. I. Avenue.
Smith, Thomas W.,	2334 Columbia Road.
Smith, William R.,	Supt. Nat. Botanic Garden.
Snow, Alpheus H.,	2013 Massachusetts Ave.
Sowers, (M.D.), Z. T.,	1707 Massachusetts Ave.
Spear, Ellis,	1003 F St.
Spofford, Ainsworth Rand,	1621 Massachusetts Ave.
Sturtevant, Charles L.,	928 F St.
Swormstedt, John S.,	1423 N. Y. Avenue.
Sylvester, Richard,	Hdqrs. Met. Police.

List of Members.

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Taggart, Hugh T.,	3249 N St.
Taylor, C. Bryson,	1822 Massachusetts Ave.
Thompson, W. B.,	1419 F St.
Tindall, (M.D.), William,	District Building.
Tree, Lambert,	70 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.
Truesdell, George,	1403 F St.
Tucker, Charles Cowles,	Colorado Building.
Van Wickle, William P.,	1225 Pennsylvania Ave.
Warner, Brainard Henry,	916 F St.
Weller, Michael I.,	602 F St.
White, Charles E.,	621 Third St.
White, Enoch L.,	1753 Corcoran St.
White, T. Brook,	Reclamation Service.
Whitney, (M.D.), Edson L.,	1232 Euclid Street.
Willard, Henry A.,	1333 K St.
Willard, Henry K.,	Kellogg Building.
Williams, Charles P.,	1675 Thirty-first St.
Williams, W. Mosby,	416 Fifth St.
Wilson, Clarence R.,	Pacific Building.
Wilson, James Ormond,	1439 Massachusetts Ave.
Wolf, Simon,	1756 Q St.
Woodhull, Maxwell V.,	2033 G St.
Woodward, Fred E.,	Eleventh and F Sts.
Woodward, S. Walter,	2015 Wyoming Ave.
Woodward, Thomas P.,	507 E St.
Wright, W. Lloyd,	1908 G St.
Wyman, (Surg. Gen.), Walter,	Stoneleigh Court.
Zevely, Douglass,	1525 O St.

**COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO THE COLUMBIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

(Continued from Page 238, Vol. 10.)

1907.

- Jan. 14. With a Camera over the Old District Boundary Lines. Fred E. Woodward. Published in this volume.
- Feb. 11. The old Cannon Foundry above Georgetown, D. C., and its first owner, Henry Foxall. Madison Davis. Published in this volume.
- Mar. 11. The Archives of the Federal Government. Waldo G. Leland. Published in this volume.
- Apr. 8. Virginia three hundred years ago. A. R. Spofford, LL.D. Published in this volume.
- May 13. Old Georgetown. Hugh T. Taggart. Published in this volume.
- Nov. 11. Recent Progress in Historical Work. Colyer Meriwether, Ph.D. Published in this volume.
- Dec. 10. Historic Homes of Washington City. Hal H. Smith. Published in this volume.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

91st meeting.

January 14, 1907.

President Hagner made the sad announcement of the death of Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, a charter member of the Society, and one of the Board of Managers since its organization. On motion of Mr. Bryan, seconded by Vice-President Barnard, the Annual Meeting was in consequence postponed. The communication of the evening was made by Mr. Fred E. Woodward under the title of "With a Camera over the Old District Boundary Lines"; the subject being illustrated with lantern slides especially prepared from photographs taken by Mr. Woodward. The paper dealt with those boundary stones which are in Virginia, and the subject was subsequently discussed by President Hagner and Mr. E. Francis Riggs.

President Hagner occupied the chair, and there were present about 75 members and guests.

92d meeting.

February 11, 1907.

Mr. Madison Davis wrote the communication of the evening, "The old Cannon Foundry above Georgetown, and its first owner, Henry Foxall," which was read by Mr. W. B. Bryan.

Resolutions on the death of Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, prepared by Vice-President Spofford, were read by the Secretary, and tributes were paid to her memory by Miss Minnie F. Mickley and Mrs. J. Eakin Gadsby; while appreciative remarks were made by Prof. W J McGee and President Hagner.

President Hagner in the chair; with about 75 members and guests. The evening closed with reports from the various officers and the annual elections, Messrs. John A. Saul and William A. Mearns acting as tellers.

93d meeting.

March 11, 1907.

Prof. Waldo G. Leland of the Department of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution, made the communication, tak-

ing for his subject "The Archives of the Federal Government." The discussion which followed was participated in by Messrs. Hagner, Weller, Bryan, Laws, Keefer, Taggart, Rev. John T. Hedrick, Miss Hetzel and others.

President Hagner in the chair; present about 60 members and guests.

94th meeting.

April 8, 1907.

President Hagner in the chair and about 175 members and guests greeted Vice-President Spofford, who gave the communication, "Virginia three hundred years ago." Mr. Weller added a few remarks and ex-President, the Hon. John A. Kasson, moved a vote of thanks; seconded by Mr. Weller, and passed unanimously.

95th meeting.

May 13, 1907.

Mr. Hugh T. Taggart was listened to by about 225 members and guests as he made his communication on "Old Georgetown." In the discussion following, additional facts were brought out by Mrs. Charles W. Richardson, Judge Bundy, who also moved a vote of thanks, Dr. Morgan and Mr. Dennis. President Hagner was in the chair.

96th meeting.

November 11, 1907.

President Hagner announced that hereafter the regular meetings of the Society would be held on the second *Tuesday* in each month from November to May inclusive.

Colyer Meriwether, Ph.D., made his communication to about 50 members and guests on "Recent Progress in Historical Research." The subject was discussed by Mrs. Madison Ballinger and President Hagner.

97th meeting.

December 10, 1907.

With President Hagner in the chair, and about 75 members and guests as an interested audience, Mr. Hal H. Smith made his communication on "Historic Homes in Washington City."

An animated discussion followed, participated in by Messrs. Hagner, Barnard, Dennis, Weller, Morgan, Clark, Blount, Blakeslee-Johnson, Zevely, Gregg, Landsburgh, Mrs. Mary Lockwood, Miss Hetzel and Miss Marie Gabrielle Jacobs.

IN MEMORIAM—MISS ELIZABETH BRYANT
JOHNSTON.

Resolutions on the death of Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, prepared by Vice-President Spofford and, in his absence, read to the Society by the Secretary, February 11, 1907.

WHEREAS, The Columbia Historical Society has sustained the loss of Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, one of its charter members;

Resolved, That we recognize in our late associate one of the most zealous and efficient members of this Society, a frequent participant in its discussions, and a valued officer in its Board of Managers.

The literary and historical writings of Miss Johnston as exhibited in her "Original Portraits of Washington," and her "George Washington, Day by Day," rank her among authors who have contributed works of permanent value regarding that illustrious man.

Her labors in journalism, her faculty for art criticism, her interest in the history and advancement of Washington City, her researches in genealogy, with her eminently social qualities, were noteworthy elements in the record of a long and useful life.

Resolved, That this memorial be entered upon the records of the Society, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of our late associate.

TRIBUTE TO MISS ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON.

By MISS MINNIE F. MICKLEY.

The last public utterance of Miss Johnston was made, I think, a month before her death, when in speaking of the influence of Mr. Davis, she said: "That she hoped the young men of Washington would realize after hearing what had been said of Mr. Davis's career, as a Washingtonian, that there was as much opportunity to become great in this city as anywhere else, that the example of Mr. Davis would be followed, that he did not find this too small a sphere to become the grand, good and successful man that he was." When I heard of her death such a short time afterward, I thought what a beautiful tribute she had paid to her fellow-member in this Society, to speak to the living of the good that could come to them in following his example.

I knew Miss Johnston at her home and in patriotic fields of labor, and in glancing back over the fifteen years of our friendship, I have gathered some few of the many things she has done, that will live after her—"The footprints in the sands of time." It was her interest in the home of Washington that led the Regents of Mt. Vernon to invite her to stay there, while compiling the first guide book in 1876, and the thousands of people who visited Mt. Vernon, during the Centennial, foreigners and Americans, received the impression of Miss Johnston's patriotic work in this little guide book of which she had the compilation for more than twenty years.

It was while engaged on this work that Miss Johnston became interested in the portraits of George Washington, and she began that collection of portraits which is so well known. While staying at Mt. Vernon the flooring of one of the rooms was found unsafe and a new one was put in its place. A number of the floor boards were given to her and she had a table made. All her writing was done on this table, to which she was much attached, the wood over which the most famous



ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON.
(From a photograph by Miss Frances B. Johnston.)

people of our country had trodden. It must have given her much inspiration. She had carefully kept a number of pieces marked, which she expected to use for some patriotic object.

When Mr. Folger was Secretary of the Treasury, she went to see him on some business for her brother; while waiting, she mentioned in conversing with one of the Chiefs of the Department, that she thought the flag should be placed on every public building, and when the Secretary arrived she mentioned it to him also and suggested it be placed upon the Treasury. To-day the flag floats over every office of the Government from nine o'clock until half-past four each day. As a member of the committee to prevent desecration of the flag, she felt how necessary was its protection from many of the foolish and careless uses made of our national emblem.

The two-cent postage stamp, known as the Houdon stamp, owes its origin to Miss Johnston's suggestion to the Post-Master General. During the past few months she used her influence with Assistant Post-Master Mattern to have the picture of the Indian girl, Pocahontas, who saved our first English-speaking colony from utter destruction, used on one of the postage stamps commemorative of the Jamestown Exposition. When she reported the fact to the Pocahontas Society, she said "she was so glad to have had the opportunity of asking that this head should be one of the Exposition series of 1907." Miss Johnston claimed descent from Pocahontas.

Miss Johnston was Historian General when the publication of the records of the Daughters of The American Revolution was decided upon, and it was her idea to have the index of ancestors, whose service in the Revolution gave us our country, under the heading of the Roll of Honor capped by a picture of Houdon's head of Washington, and the index of the members of the society, the people who are to uphold the country and keep it the greatest country in the world, under the insignia of the Society. The record is now in its 23d volume, giving the lineage of 25,000 men of the American Revolution.

Miss Johnston's "Christmas in Kentucky" is a pen picture of her old Kentucky home, a story dealing with the time when

the Proclamation of Emancipation was read to the colored people in 1862. It is one of the descriptions that will live, for it impresses you with its truth in every line. Her humor which is shown in the character sketches of her book "The Days that Are No More" brings before your mind the atmosphere of Miss Johnston's "Old Kentucky Home."

Mrs. Fairbanks in a letter to Mrs. Sanders Johnston said: "My friendship with Miss Johnston had its origin in the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and during my service as President-General of the Society, I was often deeply indebted to her for valuable counsel. She was intensely patriotic and it was she who first proposed 'the tea' for the benefit of Memorial Continental Hall, to be given upon the anniversary of the wedding day of George Washington, simultaneously throughout our society."

It was a happy thought and brought in rich results for the cause so dear to her heart. She was practical and far-seeing, in the desire that she had to fit nurses, trained and intelligent, in the care of the sick. Her literary work was recognized as of a high and patriotic order, and her life was pure and unselfish. She was loyal to her friends and unswerving in her labors for and devotion to the Society, whose motto is for "Home and Country." Nothing was dearer to her than its fair fame, its adherence to its lofty ideals; her belief was sublime in the greatness of its mission.

All of her friends must sorrow that she was called away, before the completion of the Memorial Continental Hall, which she believed symbolized the veneration of patriotism. The strength and symmetry of her loved Society.

TRIBUTE TO MISS ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON.

By MRS. J. EAKIN GADSBY.

Elizabeth Bryant Johnston—a name synonymous with all that was good, noble, generous and broad, with a quaint touch of the past ever mingling with her up-to-date, present-world's doings. A mind stored with actual pictures of the past of her own times, and much of the general history of the world at her command, a vein of humor ever present in her delightful talks, a touch of pathos in her stories of ante-bellum days, and a familiarity with times and places which will leave its impress of knowledge on all who read her stories of the kind masters and faithful slaves in "The Days that Are No More." She has told so graphically, so touchingly, the relations then existing, bringing in the characters of her own and neighboring families on their Kentucky plantations.

Her greater works on the first President are treasures of historical knowledge to the literary world, and rank with modern classics in their fine diction and record of facts, showing throughout her high trend of thought, and charming personal characteristics in her familiar touch while exhibiting the world's great heroes and authors.

Her book, "Original Portraits of Washington," was published in 1882 by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. A resolution was offered in the Senate to purchase a large number of them for the Government and was passed by the Senate and received favorably in the House, but held up by its Speaker, Samuel J. Randall. Thus was lost to Government libraries one of the most valuable and thorough histories of Washington portraits and statues. The Osgood publishers failed. The edition was soon exhausted and no second edition has ever been brought out, though Miss Johnston had revised the work, and by the help of her sister, Mrs. Sanders Johnston, was to have published a second edition during this year.

It was at Miss Johnston's suggestion that the seal of the Columbia Historical Society was taken from the clock in the

old House of Representatives, the work of the sculptor Franzoni, early in the nineteenth century. She was very anxious to have this used, as to her it symbolized the passing of Time into History, and to take note of that history and preserve it in its annals was the object for which this Society was organized.

Miss Johnston invited me to become a member of the Columbia Historical Society a number of years ago, and never failed to send me notice of the monthly meeting. The Board of Managers has lost an honored co-worker whose advice was sound and valuable; and the Society, a member whose interest in the historic scenes and doings of the District of Columbia never flagged.

Her "George Washington, Day by Day," was a labor of love and research, bringing the author and her readers in close touch with her hero—the greatest of all the earth's great men. It is a unique work and purely original in its style—giving the great Chief's doings "day by day." Miss Johnston has a quotation from some eminent author at the bottom of each page expressive of his or her opinion of Gen. Washington—comprising in all 365 quotations. Her dedication of this book is a strong expression of her patriotism, "To the children of my country, the army which Washington said could never be conquered." The illustration on the cover shows her pride in the rank and file. "In their ragged regimentals stood the Old Continentals yielding not." Her preface is a breathing, living faith in the power of patriotism and love of country. We quote from Miss Johnston:

"A deeper reverence for the law, and a greater devotion to our national institutions, are the lessons of the day; the very life of the nation depends on sustaining the majesty of the law and instilling into the hearts of American children an earnest reverence for its sacred power."

She has expressed so beautifully her love of country:

"Let love of country become part of our religion, that part which rises above all theories, philosophies, and creeds, uniting us if in nothing else in the divine fellowship of the love of country."

The flag of her country was a sacred emblem to her, and

through her suggestion the "Star Spangled Banner" now waves over all the Government buildings. Meeting Col. Amos Webster, chief clerk of the Treasury, one day, she asked why the United States flag did not wave over every public building. From that she secured, through him, an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Folger, who issued the order during the Arthur administration, in 1882—since which time the banner of the United States has floated over all its buildings.

Col. Bangs, chief of Railway Postal Service at one time, asked Miss Johnston for a suitable head for our national two-cent stamp. She suggested to him the head of Washington from the Houdon bust as being the most nearly perfect. Her suggestion was adopted, and to her we owe the fine reproduction of our national hero on one of our handsomest stamps.

She has since suggested the head of Pocahontas, to Postmaster General Cortelyou, for one of the Jamestown series.

In her work in the D. A. R. she has given of the best that was in her—work that will be a lasting monument to her in our marble building in which she took so deep an interest. Her beautiful thought of thirteen columns for the south portico, to be given by the thirteen original states, has been carried out and is in course of construction.

Her thought for a "Book of Remembrance" to be placed in Continental Memorial Hall will also be completed. I have undertaken this work as a memorial to Miss Johnston, through her own labor, by trying to raise funds on the last book of her 500 edition of "George Washington, Day by Day"; which fund will be devoted to the purchase of the "Book of Remembrance"—the names of the donors to Continental Memorial Hall to be inscribed therein.

She was a charter member of the Columbia Historical Society and served faithfully on its Board from its organization in 1894. She suggested the Seal of the Society and wrote the history of the Franzoni clock, from which the Seal is taken.

To speak of her Christian character, her utter self-forgetfulness, her tender, loving spirit, and loyal friendship is to tell what we all know of her, and of that which is most sacred in our hearts.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1907.

Dr.

Received from former Treasurer.....	\$ 986.91
Life membership fund and interest.....	104.51
Received from dues, 1907.....	815.00
Received for publications.....	19.50
	<hr/>
	\$1925.92

Cr.

Expenses, 1907.....	\$1155.40
Life membership fund and interest.....	104.51
Balance on hand.....	666.01
	<hr/>
	\$1925.92

WILLIAM HENRY DENNIS,
Treasurer.

Note.—The treasurer's books were examined and reported correct by Messrs. W. Mosby Williams, John A. Saul and Charles S. Bundy, auditing committee, March 14, 1908.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECORD- ING SECRETARY, 1907.

To the President and Members of the Columbia Historical Society:

The Recording Secretary has the honor to submit the *Fourteenth Annual Report*, beginning with the 91st meeting, Jan. 14, 1907, and ending with the 97th meeting, Dec. 10, of the same year.

The losses this year through death and resignation, being balanced by the new members received, the membership of the Society remains at 237.

The Board of Managers have held 9 meetings, with an average attendance of 8 members. The Society has held 7 meetings in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham, at which the average attendance was 81, a lower average by 16 than last year, but more persons have taken part in the discussion of the subjects presented in the various communications.

A noticeable feature in volume 10 of *The Records*, issued during the year, is the publication in full of the "Diary of Mrs. Thornton" for 1800, the original of which was presented to the Library of Congress by J. Henley Smith, a member of whom Death has since robbed the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary desires to report that all letters addressed to him in that capacity have been promptly answered and all business falling within his province has been similarly attended to.

The Recording Secretary has but one regret as she presents this Report and that is that still the Society is without a suitable place in which its constantly increasing library could be available to its members and other students of history.

Faithfully,

MARY STEVENS BEALL,
Recording Secretary.

January 14, 1908.

NECROLOGY.

- 1907, January 13thMISS ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON.
“ March 18thGEN. JOHN MOORE.
“ April 4thW. RILEY DEEBLE.
“ April 13thJ. HENLEY SMITH.
“ September 5thEDWARD F. BINGHAM.
“ October 22dWILLIAM P. ROBINSON.

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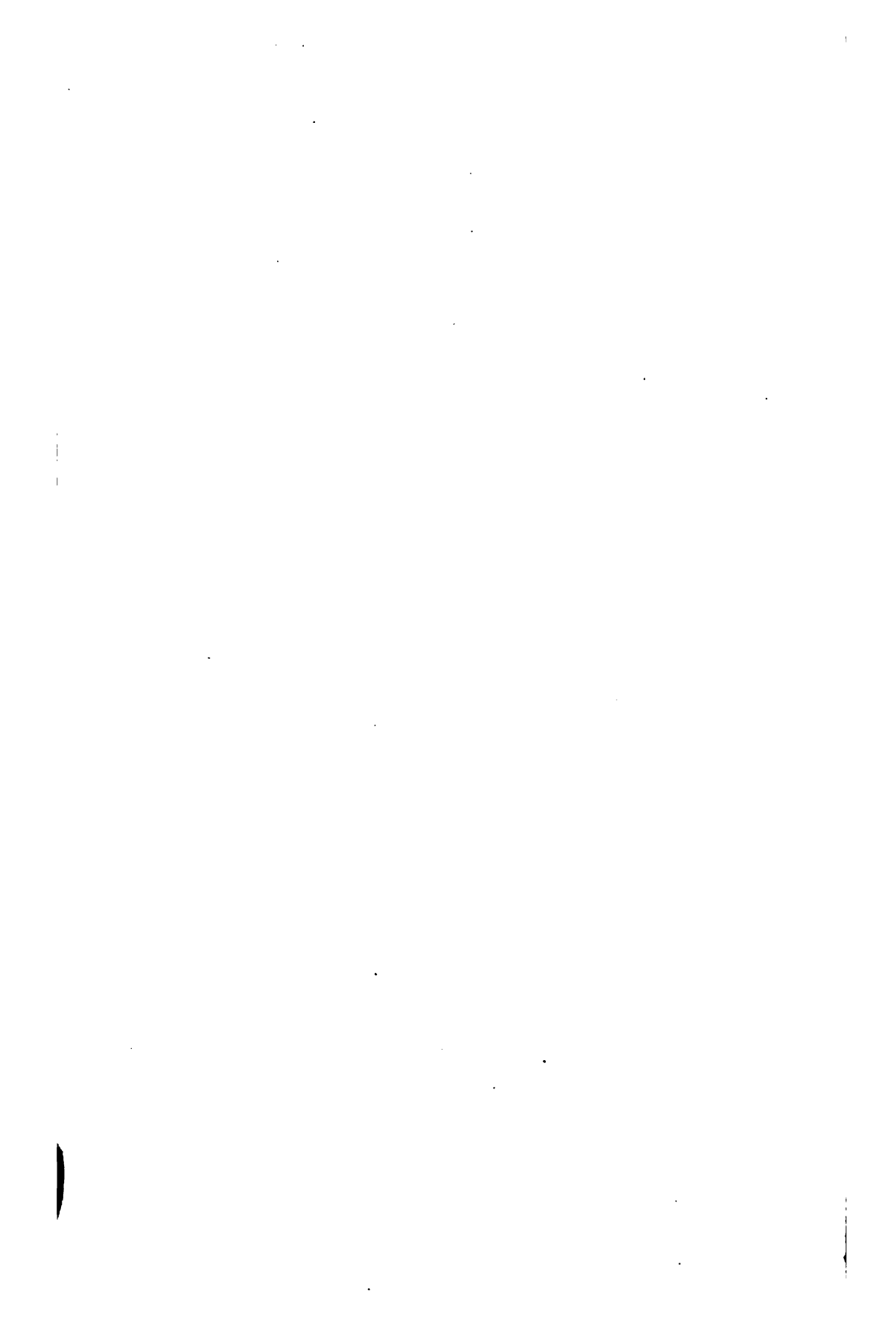
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